



## **THPC Minutes of December 3, 2009**

### **Roll Call:**

Present: Chairman Dave Wall, Rita Heller, Mark Feldman, Don Merino, Karen Neus, Liz Shanks, Paul Stefanowicz, Mario Turchi

Also Present: Alice Rigney, Tenafly Historian; Kevin Tremble

### **Open Public Meetings Act:**

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, P.L. 1975, Chapter 231, the notice requirements have been satisfied.

Meeting dates for the year are confirmed at the Annual Meeting, are posted on the public bulletin board in the lobby of the Municipal Center and published in the Press Journal and The Record within the first 10 days of the New Year.

Copies of all revised or additional meeting notices are sent via fax to the Press Journal, The Record, Suburbanite and Northern Valley News and are posted on the public bulletin board in the lobby of the Municipal Center.

### **Agenda**

Chairman Dave Wall called the meeting to order at 8:10 P.M. Roll call and the Open Public Meetings Act followed.

### **Oath of Office for Elizabeth S. Shanks**

The Oath of Office was conducted by Chairman D. Wall. Ms. Shanks' Holy Bible was held by D. Merino. Liz will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate Member. Liz read remarks she had written for the occasion.

### **"Remarks by Liz Shanks on the occasion of her swearing-in as a member of the Tenafly Historic Preservation Commission**

December 3, 2009

'Past is prologue' is a favorite quote of mine and seems apropos tonight for the work undertaken by the Historic Preservation Commission, since its inception, which is vital, I feel, to Tenafly's heritage and historic character.

Words like 'tradition' and 'heritage' may seem obstructionist or passé to some, for we all, as people, are eager to look ahead in time. But, looking back is also helpful and necessary for it shows us where we have been, what we've accomplished, what we continue to value, and, we hope, an insight into where we're going as a nation and a town.

In our two-minute microwave society, things change around us at a frenetic pace, yet it is important, I feel, to keep in mind that we sit always metaphorically on the shoulders of the generations before us, their history and their achievements, whose members chose the long view of events and choices over time.

We benefit from those choices in Tenafly to this day. Though we here tonight are, in a real sense, in a fixed moment in time, we can never forget Tenafly's historic past. It is inextricably woven with its present and a precursor of its future.

For my part, I hope I can contribute collaboratively with the members of this Commission in a small way towards preserving and enhancing that future, remaining mindful of all that has gone before in its historic make-up, looking with pride and trust towards a future Tenafly that never forgets where it has come from and never loses sight of how that fact will impact its future."

**Motion to Open Meeting to Public** made by Chairman Wall; seconded by Paul Stefanowicz. So carried.

ALICE RIGNEY, Borough Historian, spoke regarding the glass slides. At this time 75 are done of the 128. Alice shared a copy of "**Tenafly Photographer**" with the members. She will leave copies in Tenafly Public Library and Senior Center. It is estimated \$550 is left from the Grant. Slides were put in archival sleeves, stored in six boxes. Paul asked how difficult it would be to put images from the slides on Tenafly's website so residents could possibly identify people in photos. Photographer doing work has 28 slides to go for completion. Booklet "**Gentlemen of Many Hats**", a booklet describing important figures in Tenafly's history that was produced for the recent 2009 Chamber of Commerce dinner honoring Alice Rigney was passed around for the members to peruse.

### **Certificates of Appropriateness**

Chairman Wall granted two C/As: one for the Tenafly Railroad Station. Tenafly Fire Department insisted tenants put in new ladder.

Dave and Paul went to 165 Serpentine Road. Owners are requesting new door and new window.

### **Cotswold Fountain**

Mr. Urdang did not attend this meeting. No need for discussion.

### **Informational**

Dave passed around 11/28/09 article appearing in NORTH JERSEY HOMES about Beth Potter and how Ms. Potter tracks down information on historical homes. Karen said she had hired Beth to do history on Karen's home – Jellison House and Beth had found information on Sarah Snow King Jellison.

Dave handed out Journal from THEODORE ROOSEVELT ASSOCIATION, and spoke about Englewood's former Roosevelt School and visit of Teddy Roosevelt, Jr.

A resident of Red Bank, NJ, Kenneth Mac Ritchie inquired about Virginia Apgar. Ms. Apgar left money to the United Methodist Church. Paul said Ms. Apgar died in 1974 and Mr. Ritchie wants to name a park in Westfield, N.J. after her.

### **Historic Signs**

Mario, Dave and Karen identified specific locations to erect newly designed and purchased historic markers. They want them put at major entrances of historic area. Hopefully, they will be installed before start of the New Year.

### **Budget**

THPC Treasurer Rita Heller said budget is due tomorrow, December 4<sup>th</sup>. In the 2009 budget there was an established line for Lance Wyman. \$575 was saved as Mario did the presentation before Mayor & Council.

Rita said she'd like THPC to hire T. Robins Brown @ \$75/hour for several projects. A line to be established "Architectural Designer". Karen said she is waiting for T. Robins Brown's summation supporting designation of district. She had received a 1-1/2 page email from T. Robins Brown this evening.

Rita said \$11,000 was total budget without Secretary's monies. As of 11/30/09 there was \$4,000 left. Estimate for 11 Knoll Road is \$1,500; \$4000 should be encumbered for Professional Fees as suggested by Karen. Don said you can hold for two years. It was then suggested \$2,000 for T. Robins Brown; \$2,000 for Professional Fees. Don said budget amount has not gone up in six years. Mark added \$11,000 is a small amount.

Liz asked in regards to Cotswold Fountain if the legal fees are recoverable. Dave didn't think THPC applied for them; the Borough paid for attorney.

Discussion about removing Sign Designer and put that \$575 into printing line item. Karen said color copies of the 100-page designation report of the Tenafly Railroad Station District are estimated to cost \$70 each, while black & white copies of same report cost approximately \$15 each. Discussion to make Printing \$2,000. Don said make color copy for each member of Mayor & Council. Dave thinks one color copy and rest in black and white.

No conferences were attended. \$250 was allotted. Don said to leave that amount. Karen said she would have liked to attend the training conference at Drew University, but had a conflict that day, and would like the opportunity to attend in 2010.

Discussion about putting historic signs on individual houses: Alice Rigney's and Demarest – Lyle House. Rita said one Bergen County sign cost \$1,000. Mario could email Lance and ask him to design something. Karen said sell the signs to homeowners. Mario said availability of signs could be posted on Web site. Don spoke about Serpentine Road and Magnolia, that the earlier costs for architectural advice were very expensive compared to T. Robins Brown.

Joyce Capkovitz, owner from 11 Knoll Road, sent a letter and wants maximum historic

protection available. Owner has spent entire life there. Paul and Dave visited the home. It is 20<sup>th</sup> century, a house sitting in middle of three lots on .87 of an acre. Block 1403/Lot 7. Roof has cat slide.

Mario asked if there was a lighter version of report from T. Robins Brown. Don said \$1500 is reasonable compared to what was previously spent. Dave thought county sign cost should be shared with homeowner. Don said THPC must show due diligence. Karen asked if T. Robins Brown has made some assessment. Mario said ask owner for history, which would aid T. Robins Brown. Kevin suggested a qualified report. Dave asked members if they felt comfortable that 11 Knoll Road worthy of action by THPC. T. Robins Brown saw Paul's write-up.

MOTION TO APPROVE THIS CONTRACT BASED ON PAUL STEFANOWICZ'S REPORT, THAT THIS HOME HAS BEEN KEPT INTACT SINCE 1918 MADE BY DON MERINO; 2<sup>ND</sup> BY RITA HELLER. So carried.

### **Informational**

Kevin Tremble, Planning Board member, informed Planning Board last evening (12/2) that THPC had met with Janet Talley re: her document and about the downtown report. He spoke about lite rail meeting and now there is a Downtown Business Improvement District. He noted Alice is against the new band shell, but businesses would like it. Don said THPC needs to sit down and plan how to sell Downtown Historical Railroad District Report to Mayor & Council. Don asked who is going to present this. Don spoke with Mayor & Council two years about building band shell near Roosevelt Monument and Roosevelt School as there is plenty of parking there.

Liz asked how many times Mayor & Council have overturned recommendations of THPC. Members spoke of different items. Don suggested speaking with towns like Ridgewood and Upper Montclair and plan a campaign. He suggested having a subcommittee in the New Year do a designation study to present to Mayor & Council.

Dave thanked Mark Feldman for being Liaison with Mayor & Council. Kevin said he has numerous informational items from many past years that anyone is welcome to use or scan to Tenafly Web site. Don asked Paul if it was possible to do something on the web site or scan history to Library. If Paul can get Web site, Don will be happy to do the scanning.

Liz asked if THPC has a brochure about itself. Rita said brochure is continually available in Library.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned by Chairman Wall at 10:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah L. Alvarez, Transcriber

Approved 1/7/10