



100 Riveredge Road, Tenafly, NJ 07670

MINUTES
Thursday, March 4, 2021

Chairwoman Karen Neus called the Webex meeting to order at 8:05 pm.

The announcement was made regarding compliance with the Open Public Meetings Law.

Roll Call

Members Present: Karen Neus, Mike Barone, Rita Heller, Dave Wall, Emily Yang, Richard Bennett & Council Liaison Jeff Grossman

Members Absent: Reno Danese

Members of the public: Former Chair, Kevin Tremble, Richard Schiffman

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for February were so approved. Moved by: Ms. Heller, Seconded by: Mr. Barone. Unanimously approved.

Certificates of Appropriateness

Ms. Neus states that the HPC has not received any new Certificate of Appropriateness applications.

Old Business

- a. **Tenafly Walking Tour**—Ms. Yang informs the Commission that Ms. Youn, the graphic designer has been drafting some possible designs for the brochure. Ms. Yang also states that Ms. Neus has secured Ella Herman, a freshman at Drexel as the photographer to take pictures for the brochure. At this point the focus is on finalizing the text to make sure everything flows well. Ms. Neus states that the designer is looking for a nice street map that can be used as an image inside the brochure. Ms. Neus informs the Commission that she has been in contact with historian, Paul Stefanowitz to focus in on the kinds of historical photographs that will be used and where they will appear in the brochure. Ms. Heller suggests looking into the Virginia Mosely historic photo collection at the Tenafly Public Library as well.
- b. **Inness Road Gates**—Ms. Neus welcomes Mr. Richard Schiffman long-time resident of Serpentine Road to the meeting. She informs Mr. Schiffman of the idea prior COIVD of restoring the gates, which was presented to the previous Mayor & Council and at the time we/they decided that we/they could not fund the project. Mr. Schiffman states that during the many walks through the gates over the past year you realize the poor condition of the gates as they are starting to rust at the bottom. The gates bring a lot of character and charm to the neighborhood and hope that the neighborhood can come together to restore the gates. Mr. Barone mentions that in addition to the rust there is a lot of intricate work to restore the gates. He found a company back in 2017 that has completed some restoration on the Statue of Liberty that could assist on the gates restoration. Mr. Barone says there are many factors that will need to be considered, such as the height of the gates for emergency vehicles to pass through, mounting of the gates at the pillars, and the landscaping. Mr. Barone will reach out the restoration company and ask for an updated proposal. Ms. Neus ask Mr. Schiffman to start talking up the possible project to his neighbors. A list of neighbors and a document shall be drawn up to send out to the neighborhood to get their interest in this restoration project.
- c. **Railroad Station Project**—Ms. Neus states that Focus Lighting is still working on their lighting design for the exterior. Once completed, then Maser Consulting will have to put together a project authorization application to the State Historic Preservation Office as they did with the Roosevelt Monument. Councilman Grossman says that the project is slated for going forward this spring.

- d. Roosevelt Monument Project**—Ms. Neus informs the Commission that Focus Lighting is now in the process of preparing their construction documents for the lighting scheme. Those construction documents will provide all the information that we need to put together a bid package which Maser Consulting will ultimately pull together using the specification provided by Focus Lighting. Ms. Neus said that she is also going to have a phone meeting with Borough Administrator in the coming weeks to hand over the management of the project. Ms. Neus invited Administrative Assistant, Amanda Booth to the conference call to provide any assistance to the operation of the project. The next steps include getting the bid documents together so that the town can hire an electrical contractor to do the installation, finalize the contract with Bob Carpenter, whom is ready to get working on the project as soon as we give him the go-ahead. Maser Consulting has reached out to the Bergen County Grants Administrator to ask for an extension to the deadline of the grant due to COVID till hopefully the end of December of this year.
- e. Historic Markers Status Report**—Ms. Neus informs the Commission that orders for three new historic markers which was submitted to Sewah Studios of Marietta, Ohio in late 2020, is in progress. The production time is approximately 12 weeks (an increase from the previous 6-8 weeks due to COVID) which will allow for delivery and installation in the spring when the ground has thawed out.

Updates from Council Liaison

Councilman Grossman informs the Commission that there is nothing new to report on. He mentions that there was a meeting with Maser that included the Roosevelt Monument discussion. Budgeting is coming up and believes that THPC budget is pretty much the same as last year.

Ms. Neus informs the Commission of the 2 homes, 523 & 533 Knickerbocker Road North that are for sale. Both are Victorian homes which are listed on Table 13 as part of the Borough inventory. Even though given they are already on the market there is not a whole lot we can do to preserve them.

Ms. Neus informs the Commission that two of the Harvey Dunn paintings at the high school were recently taken down due to the uncomfortable nature of the two paintings. Ms. Yang offered that some of the parents have been offended for many years. Ms. Neus says how right before COVID, Alice Rigney reached out to THPC about a possible project to clean and repair the paintings. Ms. Neus said located a curator who then recommended a restoration person who was willing to look at them. She said she compiled the information on hand and forwarded it to the principal and the Board of Education informing them that the paintings were of valuable and they should be protected as they are a part of a series of paintings about the life of Abraham Lincoln.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm by Ms. Neus.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Booth
Secretary | Administrative Assistant