TOWNSHIP OF WYCKOFF HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION SEPTEMBER 12, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

The September 12, 2023 Historic Preservation Commission meeting was held in the Court Room in Memorial Town Hall. Doug Swenson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Mitchell read the Open Public Meeting Notice: The September 12, 2023 Open Public Meeting of the Wyckoff Historic Preservation Commission is now in session. In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting appears on our annual schedule of meetings. A copy of said annual schedule has been posted on the bulletin board in Memorial Town Hall; a copy has been filed with the Township Clerk, The Record, The Ridgewood News, and the North Jersey Herald News – all newspapers with general circulation throughout the Township of Wyckoff. At least 48 hours prior to this meeting, the agenda thereof was similarly posted, filed, and emailed to said newspapers.

Roll Call

Present: Township Committeeman Rudy Boonstra; Commission Members: Doug Swenson, Patricia Constance, Curtis Bajak, Steven Zmuda, Joseph Haftek, and Maureen Mitchell. Absent: Richard Lynch, Beth Van Emburgh, and Joseph Cestaro.

Old Business

Approval of the June 13, 2023 meeting minutes. Mr. Bajak made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Second, Mr. Zmuda. Voting in favor: all.

Mr. Swenson brought up the ongoing matter of window replacements at 310 Crescent Avenue which the Commission members had some concerns about. Mr. Swenson said that the homeowner provided additional information about the windows, which has been reviewed by certain Commission members, and they have determined that the homeowner is complying with the specific recommendations made by the HPC.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
NO ONE FROM THE PUBLIC COMMENTED
CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

New Business

There was a discussion about the project to gather historical information on the list of approximately 35 historic structures we would like to designate as historic. Mr. Swenson said this will be a big endeavor because the Commission members will have to do all of the roadwork to gather the information on the homes. Different suggestions were made as to how to find historic information about the homes on the list such as searching construction permits, the Bergen County website for land records, wills, deeds, tax records, the Bolger Heritage Center at the Ridgewood Library, and the Wyckoff Library's history room. Mr. Swenson said that he and Ms. Mitchell will work on breaking up the list of homes, and group them by their geographic locations. A group of 4 to 5 homes will then be designated to each Commission member to search for historical information.

Mr. Zmuda said he would like to find a map of where all the farms in Wyckoff once existed. Mr. Boonstra said Wyckoff was very rural up until 1959 when Route 208 was paved. There was once a very large pig farm where the Wildlife Center now exists, as well as dairy, goat, and chicken farms around town. Mr. Boonstra went on to say that it would be very interesting to find a map that shows all of the farms that once existed in Wyckoff. Mr. Swenson said the Bolger history room is a great resource.

Mr. Bajak pointed out that Richard Lynch and the Wyckoff Historical Society probably have a good amount of information about the Union Cemetery, which is on the list for preservation as a historic site. Following that statement there was a discussion about old family cemeteries in Wyckoff and the surrounding areas including the Van Houten and Snyder family cemeteries.

Finally Mr. Swenson said he will send out the list with the geographic location breakdown of the next batch of historic homes for the Commission members to research. He reiterated that there are resources available such as the Bergen County website, the Bolger Center, the Wyckoff Library, and the Wyckoff Historical Society.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded, and passed unanimously. The meeting concluded at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Maureen Mitchell Commission Secretary