

**Minutes of the Metuchen Historic Preservation Committee Regular Meeting
December 13, 2011, 7:30 PM, Borough Hall, 2nd Floor, 500 Main Street, Metuchen, NJ**

Chairperson Tyreen Reuter called the December 13, 2011 regularly scheduled meeting of the Metuchen Historic Preservation Committee (HPC) to order at 7:38 PM.

Attendance

Committee Members:

Councilman Elect Jay Muldoon
Suzanne E. Andrews
Tyreen Reuter
Becky Seely
Nancy Zerbe

Review/recap of Minutes from the September 13, 2011 Meeting

After discussion, the Committee reviewed and approved the minutes; Becky Seely / Nancy Zerbe (M/S/C, unanimous) to approve.

2010-2011 Grant Project

Councilman Elect Muldoon distributed copies of consultant Dennis Bertland's final report; additional copies will go to:

- Borough Hall
- Metuchen-Edison Historical Society

Tyreen Reuter has the complete original copy with the Appendices (with the newspaper copies).

2011-2012 Grant Project

The Committee discussed the next steps:

- Nancy reported on several options she is exploring for a consultant; the committee provided some input and asked that Nancy invite the lead candidate to the January meeting.
- Tyreen and Nancy discussed their review of potential boundaries; Tyreen showed a marked-up version of Linda McTeague's map for the Woodwild Park area historic district. Overall, it is recommended that we follow the general boundaries and justification outlined by Linda.
- As far as scope of work for the new consultant, we need to follow the scope outlined in our grant application, although we will work with the consultant to refine it, as appropriate.
- Councilman Elect Muldoon suggested a presentation to the Council within the next year to help with getting the word out to the public.

Scavenger Hunt

The Committee agreed that they would like to have one in 2012. They also discussed considering making it somewhat easier due to the fact that it appears many people did not return their form because they did not finish. Ideas discussed include:

- Having fewer items to find?
- Using a theme, such as churches, schools?
- Using a smaller, more tightly defined geographic area?
- Using more easily seen details?

Old/New Business

Metuchen Colonial Cemetery – The Committee discussed the need for the Borough (as the property owner) to be more involved. The main concern is the embankment. Councilman Elect Muldoon reported that he had spoken with Bill Boerth. He also asked the Shade Tree Commission if they had planted the new trees at the cemetery; they said they had not. It is not clear who planted the trees; perhaps Public Works? It was agreed that Councilman Elect Muldoon (perhaps with a representative of Public Works) will meet with the Cemetery Committee.

Tyreen suggested that the Committee consider an idea for a future project: have a training workshop to educate realtors about the value of historic designation and to correct realtors' widespread misunderstandings about the regulations involved with historic designation.

Next Meetings

January 10, 2012
February 14, 2012
March 13, 2012
April 10, 2012
May 8, 2012
June 12, 2012

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Zerbe
HPC Member