

**Minutes of the Metuchen Historic Preservation Committee Regular Meeting  
February 26, 2013, 7:30 PM, Borough Hall, 2nd Floor, 500 Main Street, Metuchen, NJ**

Chairperson Tyreen Reuter called the February 26, 2013 regularly scheduled meeting of the Metuchen Historic Preservation Committee (HPC) to order at 7:41 PM.

**Attendance**

Suzanne Andrews  
Nancy Zerbe  
Tyreen Reuter  
Becky Seely  
Richard Miller  
Richard Weber  
Council Liaison Jay Muldoon

**Review of Minutes from the January 8, 2013 Meeting**

The minutes from the January 8, 2013 meeting were reviewed. Becky Seeley / Richard Miller (M/S/C, unanimous) to approve the minutes.

**2012-2013 Grant**

Tyreen Reuter reported that she and Nancy Zerbe met with consultant Margaret Newman and drove around the potential historic district. Margaret will come back and do her own photography, but she would like a list of the addresses and block and lots. Richard Miller will work on this. Tyreen will get Margaret the Grimstead photographs for any of the properties in the potential district.

**Old Business**

Councilman Jay Muldoon emailed the Committee's draft Mission Statement to Bill Boerth and Mayor Vahalla and explained that the Committee's goal is to be transparent in terms of goals. Bill and the Mayor are reviewing the statement. The Councilman will follow-up to let them know that the Committee would like to proceed with adopting it.

**Public Outreach:** The Committee discussed the need to get the word out about the grant work. Several ideas were discussed, including combining with the June 22<sup>nd</sup> Lincoln Highway event; holding a public meeting where Margaret Newman will speak; presenting to the Borough Council first and then later a public meeting with an overview of the Committee's grant work; and meeting with the Woodwild Park Association at their next meeting (possibly in April?).

The Committee decided on a workshop the beginning of May, which is National Historic Preservation Month. Meeting with property owners before the product is finished could allow property owners to have input, including providing historic documentation about their homes. Flyers could be sent to all potential property owners; Nancy to draft a flyer for the Committee's review in March. When the flyers are sent out, more information on the potential historic district could be on file for public review at the library and borough hall.

Tyreen to speak with St. Luke's to see if they would host the workshop. Councilman Muldoon will report about the Committee's plans during his next Council meeting.

**Scavenger Hunt**

The Committee discussed going into residential areas, such as the historic district; the public would be advised to stay on sidewalks. Perhaps limit it to 10 buildings?

**New Business**

Nancy discussed her idea about amending the historic preservation element of the municipal master plan. According to the NJ Municipal Land Use Law, only historic resources named in a town's master plan can be designated as local landmarks. Councilman Muldoon believes that the Borough's master plan is due to be updated in 2014; he will confirm this. The Committee discussed that it could come up with language and coordinate with Metuchen Planner Jim Constantine. The Committee also discussed looking at material from consultant Donna Harris, who worked with the Committee under a Preservation New Jersey grant.

Maggie Cook has a DVD of a 1929 silent movie made in Metuchen.

Becky Seely congratulated Tyreen Reuter for being Metuchen Chamber's Citizen of the Year. Tyreen will be honored on March 16.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 845 PM.

**Next Meetings**

March 12, 2013

April 9, 2013

May 14, 2013

June 11, 2013

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Zerbe, HPC Member