

**Minutes of the Metuchen Historic Preservation Committee Regular Meeting
March 19, 2013, 7:30 PM, Borough Hall, 2nd Floor, 500 Main Street, Metuchen, NJ**

Chairperson Tyreen Reuter called the March 19, 2013 regularly scheduled meeting of the Metuchen Historic Preservation Committee (HPC) to order at 7:40 PM.

Attendance

Nancy Zerbe
Tyreen Reuter
Lori Chambers
Becky Seely

Review of Minutes from the February 26, 2013 Meeting

The minutes from the February 26, 2013 meeting were reviewed. Tyreen Reuter / Becky Seely (M/S/C, unanimous) to approve the minutes.

2012-2013 Grant

Tyreen Reuter reported that consultant Margaret Newman had been back in Metuchen and driving around the potential historic district to review the boundaries.

Tyreen reported that she had taken photographs of any Grimstead historic photographs for houses in the potential historic district; Tyreen sent Margaret a CD with the images and will also send her some related notes.

The Committee needs to get Margaret a list of blocks and lots and property owners. Richard Miller prepared a tax map and gave it to Tyreen; we still need owner's names and block and lot numbers.

Margaret feels she can get the project done by our end of May deadline.

Old Business

Councilman Jay Muldoon continues to follow-up on the Committee's draft Mission Statement. He had sent this to Bill Boerth and Mayor Vahalla and they are reviewing the statement.

Public Outreach

The Committee discussed the public information session to be possibly held in May. Tyreen spoke to Barbara Crafton and she felt a Thursday evening in May would be good. Margaret Newman is interested in being there; perhaps the historical society could help with her fee.

Nancy showed draft text for a flyer about the workshop. Committee's comments:

Tie it into National Historic Preservation Week and the scavenger hunt?

How do we reach homeowners: Flyers in door? Can the Borough do this? Mail?

Put the flyer on the website; post it in the library; put info in the Criterion

Don't have a red flag statement about the ramifications of a historic district

The flyer should be more general promotional rather than considering it notification to individual homeowners.

Per Tyreen, we'll revise the flyer text and add some images and then have Jay run it by the Mayor.

Scavenger Hunt

The Committee discussed:

- Using themes, eg., schools, churches? 18th century houses?
- Not have the scavenger hunt every year (there was concern re loss of continuity)
- Becky Seely's idea to involve information that would make it a learning experience
- Reinforce the historic district (examples: Woodwild Park pillars, St. Luke's, Old Firehouse, BIL. Library, YMCA, Metuchen Inn, Horse Trough, Ciardi, Mark Twain)
- We should have the photography done by mid-April, preferably by April 9
- Councilman Muldoon may speak to the Chamber
- Involving the schools again; perhaps Suzanne Andrews would help again

New Business

Tyreen Reuter explained more about the DVD of a mid-1930s silent movie made in Metuchen.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Next Meetings

April 9, 2013

May 14, 2013

June 11, 2013

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Zerbe, HPC Member