

**Historic Preservation Committee
Meeting Minutes – October 13, 2020**

A meeting of the Mountain Lakes Historic Preservation Committee (“HPC” or the “Committee”) was held on Tuesday, October 13, via Zoom. In attendance were Alex Gotthelf, Tom Dagger, Mark Hoffman, Rob Infante, Allison Nacim, Sueanne Sylvester, Andy Scott, Ranjan Bose and Frances LaMuraglia. Absent were Margaret DeWitt, Gillian Strauss, Justin Savage and Borough Council Liason Janet Horst.

Approval of Prior Meeting’s Minutes

The minutes of the September 15 meeting were approved with one correction to include the Treasurer’s Report.

Chair's Report

Alex was pleased to report that Mitchell Stern wants to consult with HPC about the Island Beach capital project. He invited Alex to meet with the head artisan / builder and discuss the plan for rebuilding the masonry bridge. There will be a new concrete structure faced with stone and Alex wants them to reuse the original stones.

Borough Liaison Report

Alex summarized his discussions and email exchanges with Janet Horst. Protection of the historic Market buildings can be accomplished either by designating the area as an Area in Need of Rehabilitation through a separate committee focused on economic development (EDAC) or we need an updated ordinance to protect the property. The Area in Need of Rehabilitation approach follows and is consistent with well established municipal land use law. We can still proceed with the HPC Landmarks Ordinance in parallel if we choose. Janet is pushing for The Landmark Ordinance to be on the agenda for the November 9 Borough Council meeting.

Treasurer’s Report

Andy reported very little activity; we sold a plaque to Sueanne for one of her clients. Alex and Andy decided that grant money should be on the ledger even though it is kept in the town account.

Andy said we have been getting a few deposits via Paypal, and for now Rob will control the Paypal account and then cut a check to HPC.

YTD 10-01-20

	2020	2019	2018
Cash Balance	28,772	27,686	28,570
Income	661	451	1,359
Expenses	584	1,404	2,722
Net income (loss)	77	(953)	(1,363)

Archive / Social Media Report

Rob said the new shelves in the archives look beautiful. He posted an old, unknown photo of a fire in town and was able to locate the person involved—Roy Harrison. He is inquiring to see if he wants to do an oral history.

Ranjan will be publishing something about the Masonic Lodge, and Alex and Sueanne offered him their contacts there.

Salvage Report

There was a little activity at the shed but no sales.

Oral Histories Report

Sueanne and Allison came up with a Google Forms survey asking about people's Mountain Lakes memories as a form of oral history. The survey will be distributed to reunion email lists and linked on the Facebook page. They will be testing it this month and ironing out the kinks.

Fundraising/Grants

Alex reiterated that we have to submit the final report to the Morris County Heritage Commission re-grant program by November 13 and that there could possibly be no money in the program next year.

Upcoming Events

No community events are scheduled at this time.

Old Business

Storage space in Borough Hall: The subject was circulated the Borough Manager, Mitchell Stern, by Janet Horst and no space is available at this time. The Borough Manager is aware of the need and Janet said she would follow up with him on this.

Landmark Protection Ordinance: Alex is trying to streamline the ordinance for minor repair items to address concerns expressed by the churches, namely Community Church. He has been trying to connect with the expert, Barton Ross to get language to add to the draft ordinance. The sub-committee's goal is to have the final draft ready for the borough council meeting when it is reintroduced on the agenda. Janet Horst is helping to coordinate getting this back on the Borough Council agenda.

Strategic Mission: No update.

New Business

Nominations for January: Allison was nominated for Secretary and Andy was nominated for Treasurer. Alex mentioned stepping down as Chair in 2022 so he is currently looking for a Co-Chair to aid in the transition.

Bulk Incentives Ordinance: We now have regular communication with John Zamierowski (Mountain Lakes Zoning Enforcement Official) about the Bulk Incentives Ordinance.

Alex currently signs off as the architect pro bono, but a future version of the Bulk Incentives Ordinance should remove the architect requirement for minor things like generators additions where there is no change to the Contributing Dwelling.

117 Lake Drive is undergoing a gut renovation and balconies have been removed from the street facing façade. Alex will notify them by phone about the Ordinance.

Alex motioned to add the Ordinance to “Reports” to keep it active and the motion was approved.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Date for Next Meeting

Next meeting date – Tuesday, November 17 at 7:30 via Zoom.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes prepared by Allison Nacim. Updated by Alex Gotthelf