

**Historic Preservation Committee  
Meeting Minutes – December 15, 2020**

A meeting of the Mountain Lakes Historic Preservation Committee (“HPC” or the “Committee”) was held on Tuesday, December 15, via Zoom. In attendance were Alex Gotthelf, Allison Nacim, Rob Infante, Sueanne Sylvester, Margaret DeWitt, Mark Hoffman, Tom Dagger, Ranjan Bose, Borough Council Liaison Janet Horst, Gillian Strauss and Frances LaMuraglia. Absent were Andrew Scott and Justin Savage.

***Approval of Prior Meeting’s Minutes***

The minutes of the November 17 meeting were approved with a few modifications to the Archive / Social Media Report and the addition of the Treasurer’s Report.

***Chair's Report***

See sub-committee reports.

***Borough Liaison Report***

Janet reminded us that Borough Council recently hired an assessor to re-assess properties for the first time in 15 years. In the next week every resident will be mailed their new tax assessment with a link to see every property in ML. From this point on, there will be a rolling re-assessment in town to keep property values more current.

***Treasurer’s Report***

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	<b>YTD 11-30-20</b>		
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Cash Balance</b>	<b>28,530</b>	<b>28,811</b>	<b>28,888</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>805</b>	<b>1,576</b>	<b>2,139</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>1,404</b>	<b>5,771</b>
<b>Net income (loss)</b>	<b>(395)</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>(3,632)</b>

***Archive / Social Media / Outreach***

Rob mentioned that his Facebook posts asking people to locate houses are going well. RJ got a lot of interest and conversation on his post about progress at Island Beach with a historic photo from 1930 showing there was no wall at that time, and that the wall torn down was not original. He is trying to convert followers to the HPC Facebook page.

***Bulk Incentives Ordinance***

Alex suggested that a goal for 2021 should be modifying the ordinance so that de minimis applications do not require professional certification by an architect and can be approved by a zoning officer. Janet recommended that we wait until February when we

have a new mayor and a new Borough Council Liaison to assist with getting this change on the agenda.

Tom mentioned that we have always had members on the zoning and planning boards, and now that we no longer do, we are missing out on time sensitive happenings in town. Alex would like some of us to volunteer; they both have one spot open. If not, someone will need to monitor the agendas of both boards and report back.

### ***Salvage***

Alex sold a porcelain pedestal sink.

We are still waiting for a donation for a door that was taken.

Alex reported that 4 beautiful diamond pane windows were donated. The source of the donation is unknown.

### ***Oral Histories***

Sueanne and Allison reported there has been no activity with the survey but that it should go out in a borough blast.

### ***Fundraising / Grants***

Alex would like someone to run with the custom historic map fundraiser idea borrowed from the Ridgewood Historical Society.

Janet and Sueanne talked about the QR codes on wooden posts idea for historic sites. RJ said his Boy Scout troop just installed very similar posts on the town trails. The 2021 QR Codes Project could be initiated and managed by HPC, and implemented by Boy Scouts and DPW.

### ***Upcoming Events***

No community events are scheduled at this time due to Covid 19.

### ***Old Business / Action Items***

*Landmark Protection Ordinance:*

We are in a holding pattern—the ordinance is not an agenda item currently with Borough Council. We are tracking what's going on with EDAC.

### ***Strategic Plan***

No updates, but we need to list our annual goals update our 5 year strategic plan and potentially revisit our mission statement.

### ***New Business***

#### *Centennial Book Reorder:*

We are out of books after Margaret made a push to sell as a holiday gift. The cost of printing the book has gone up from \$32 in 2017 to now \$50. Margaret explained that if we change the cover material from black fabric to black paper, we can cut the price by \$10. We need to order 50 copies with paper covers at a cost of \$2006.47 delivered.

**Motion:** Alex motioned to allocate \$2006.47 to buy 50 copies of the book with paper cover (and with extra paper covers)

#### **Second:**

**Vote:** Approved Unanimous

Janet presented the idea of asking for a budget from Borough Council, specifically for the cost of the Centennial books. Alex explained that this is a novel concept for us and we need to think about it.

#### *44 Midvale Zoning Board Application:*

Alex and Tom informed us that the current owner of Hapgoods wants to convert the carriage house to a single family residence and is asking for a massive amount of variances to get that done.

Tom and Alex drafted some language to speak at the Zoning Board meeting about it but wanted our input first, to which there were no objections. Alex would like us all to participate in the January 7<sup>th</sup> Zoning Board meeting via Zoom where Alex will make a statement.

#### *Contributing Dwelling Database:*

We are having a problem with our page on the ML website in that the link to all the contributing dwellings is broken. Alex is having no luck dealing with the webmaster, so Margaret agreed to get her husband Michael in touch with him. Rob may have a backup link in the archive.

#### *2021 Calendar:*

Alex forwarded the proposed 2021 calendar and requested feedback from the group.

### ***Public Comments***

There were no public comments.

### ***Date for Next Meeting***

Next meeting date – Tuesday, January 19 at 7:30 via Zoom.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes prepared by Allison Nacim and Alex Gotthelf