

Historic Preservation Committee Meeting Minutes – June 15, 2021

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

Exception Request – Bulk Incentives Ordinance

A special meeting was held at an earlier time to discuss a request for 3 Lake Drive, Justin and Suzanne Chan, for an exception to the bulk incentives eligibility requirements under the historic preservation incentives ordinance. Alex Gotthelf recused himself and was not present. Tom, Margaret, Mark, Sueanne and Allison were present. Architect Larry Korinda helped explain the plan and the blueprints. The committee voted and approved the exception.

Approval of Prior Meeting’s Minutes

The minutes of the May 18 meeting were unanimously approved.

Chair’s Report

See sub-committee reports.

Borough Liaison Report

Cynthia reported that the ML Club is back and has silent investors. We can attend events there and give a pitch—tell them what’s available and educate new members to better promote ourselves.

Borough Council wants HPC to participate in grant funding for The Station—they need to hire someone (Connolly & Hickey in Cranford) to write the grant application. Alex will initiate the call to the grant writer and then Cynthia will take over.

Treasurer’s Report

Andy provided the following report after the meeting.

YTD xx-xx-xx			
	2021	2020	2019
Cash Balance	xx,xxx	xx,xxx	xx,xxx
Income	x,xxx	x,xxx	x,xxx
Expenses	x,xxx	x,xxx	x,xxx
Net income (loss)	x,xxx	x,xxx	xxx

Archive

No updates.

Social Media / Outreach

No updates.

Bulk Incentives Ordinance

Alex spoke with the zoning board—they acknowledged that they owe us a response and they will attempt to revise the checklist. The checklist is hard to navigate—maybe a supporting document could help explain the questions better. Mark will replace Tom on the bulk incentives ordinance sub-committee.

Salvage

Alex received some building donations from Liz Festa at 32 Condit Road.

Oral Histories

Sueanne found a new app called Vocal Video to record videos and thinks we can possibly use it for oral histories.

Alex said we should have our open house the weekend in October when there are all the reunions so we can record oral histories.

Fundraising / Grants

After much research, we decided that the historic map of Mountain Lakes should be sold as a print for \$40.

Upcoming Events

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

Old Business / Action Items

EDAC Request for membership:

Cynthia believes that they will not have an HPC member on EDAC. If Midvale comes back up on the agenda, they will contact us. We need to attend meetings since they most likely won't let us join.

Bulk Incentives Ordinance Checklist Update:

See Bulk Incentives Ordinance Report.

Interactive Map:

No updates.

Student Documentary Film Project:

Gillian showed her film at Briarcliff to 7th grade students and it was received very well—all the kids took notes. There were 1300 views of the video at the time of the meeting. Alex wants to get the film and the interactive map publicized, possibly in a borough blast

Form Committee for 2022 Historic Preservation Month of May:

Allison and Margaret volunteered with room for a possible third member.

New Business

Formation of subcommittee for incentives ordinance reviews:

No updates.

New student member application:

We picked a new member, Grace Gower, the student who created the interactive historic map.

New alternate member application:

There were a few people interested in joining the committee and we chose Ryan Astrup as a new alternate member. The committee will invite Brian Adams to future meetings as a non-voting member from the community.

Sendoff of Tom Dagger and Gillian Strauss:

The committee celebrated all the hard work and dedication of both Tom and Gillian with a toast and send off gifts and certificates of appreciation.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Date for Next Meeting

Next meeting date – Tuesday, September 21 at 7:30.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes prepared by Allison Nacim with edits by Alex Gotthelf.