

**Historic Preservation Committee
Meeting Minutes - March 22, 2022**

A meeting of the Mountain Lakes Historic Preservation Committee ("HPC" or the "Committee") was held virtually on Tuesday, March 22, 2022. In attendance were Alex Gotthelf (Chair), Ranjan O. Bose (Co-Chair), Margaret DeWitt, Brian Adams, Grace Gowan, Francis LaMuraglia, and Borough Council Liaison Cynthia Korman. Absent were Sueanne Sylvester, Mark Hoffman, and Ryan Astrup.

1. Welcome by Chair, Alex Gotthelf

2. Approval of Last Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the February 22nd, 2022 meeting were distributed. Since there was not a quorum the minutes will be voted on at the next meeting.

3. Reports

a) Borough Liaison.

- I. **Station Grant Application/Conditions Report:** Cynthia reported that the grant application for the Station conditions report has been received and signed off on by the borough manager, Mitchell Stern. Everything tracking well. Cynthia reported an open question about the date of the fire. Some investigation was done by Ranjan and Rob Infante but nothing conclusive. Ranjan has agreed to look further into pinpointing the date.
- II. **Centennial Trust Fund:** Cynthia also inquired about the Centennial Trust Fund and any restrictions or any "earmark" for HPC. The initial response was that these are not HPC funds. But she has a call into the borough CFO to see if there are any "legal constraints" on the use of these funds. She will inquire further to see if there is any resolution that gives specifics. Alex will also reach out to Tom Dagger and others who may have better recollection on the exact status of that account.
- III. **EDAC:** Cynthia says that no further action has been taken. Chris Richter has professional experience and has taken direct interest in promoting the Market area as an Area in Need of Redevelopment. Many rumor and misunderstanding are circulating among the owners of buildings in the area. EDAC is trying to organize meetings with the owners but that meeting has not happened yet. Larry Dierie was contacted.

b) Treasurer: Mark Hoffman sent a spreadsheet of the HPC account activity via email. Mark reported a beginning balance of \$29,036.34 and an ending balance of \$30,230.34. There were receipts of \$1,714.50 as of the beginning of the year and disbursements of \$476 plus an additional \$269 in accounts payable.

c) Archive. No report

d) Bulk Incentives: No Report

e) Social Media outreach: Ranjan continues to maintain and respond to inquiries on the Facebook page "You Know Your From Mountain Lakes" regarding history and home ownership. Ranjan reported 2000 followers.

f) Salvage Shed – Alex will be meeting with Grace to educate her on the formation, purpose and maintenance of the salvage program on Thursday.

g) Oral Histories: Mark Hoffman contacted Mr. Fusco regarding a booth at the reunions. His reply was that "we can certainly make this work". He suggested having some alumni help with setting up a tent before the football game in the parking lot and promoting it through Alumni Classes. Homecoming is September 23rd 2022. HPC will assign to new student members to assist who will be on board by that time.

h) Fundraising: See New Business below

i) Upcoming Events.

- I. **Open House:** The annual HPC open house date has been set for May 22nd between 1:00

and 3:00 with an hour or two before and after for setup and breakdown. Margaret will distribute a task and staffing assignment and schedule for committee members to sign up for various jobs.

- II. **Mountain Lakes Day:** Cynthia announced that Mountain Lakes Day will be July 2nd. HPC typically takes a booth. Future planning for participation in that event will be assigned.

4. *Old Business*

a) **Membership**

- i. **Alternates:** no new applications presented. Borough eblast will continue announcement.
- ii. **Students (proposed):**
 - ◆ Jessica Fazendeiro (rising Junior) will be contacted by Alex.
 - ◆ Ranjan has confirmed that Olin Bose is interested.

b) **Bulk Incentive Ordinance Checklist:** On hold awaiting input from Tom Dagger

c) **Bull Incentives Self-Certification Update:** On hold awaiting input from Tom Dagger

d) **The Station: Conditions Report/ Grant Application and Promotion**

See Borough Liaison Report above

Ryan checked with Carlos at the Station and he has a suggestion. Pending discussion March 25th; Ryan inquired regarding loan of photographs from the Villa/Mansion for exhibition at the Station. He reported via email that their initial response was positive, only asking if the dates of the Open House did not conflict with dates that they have a planned event, in which case they would want the pictures in the building. These are securely fixed to the walls to prevent accidental damage by visitors, and are expected to be problematic in removing. They suggested we let them know the dates, and they would consider the request. Nancy said she could put us in touch with the photographer that touched up the pictures in order to print them large format; perhaps HPC could consider having a few made + framed for our future events, and also help promote future sales etc.

e) **EDAC- Economic Development Committee regarding Marketplace**

See Borough Liaison Report above

f) **Eagle Scout – Bose – Interpretive Sign**

Olin Bose will be presenting to Borough Council at next meeting.

g) **Contributing Dwelling Database Corrections :** No report

5. *New Business*

- a) **Archive Relocation:** Alex reported that he discussed the need for relocation in an impromptu meeting with Mitchell Stern at Borough Hall. Mr. Stern floated the concept of possibly construction an addition to the existing garage building at the back of the Department of Public Works yard. He said that the location could accommodate a small addition to the left side. The garage already has electrical service. The HPC would need to initiate a volunteer program to design the addition and fund the bulk of the construction costs but that the Borough could potentially provide some site preparation assistance, possibly pouring the slab and foundation and help with the basic infrastructure. The committee discussed the concept and thought this was a good idea and preferred this option to entering into a lease and having ongoing overhead for the foreseeable future.

6. *Other Action Items*

None reported

Next meeting is scheduled for April 19, 2022

Minutes prepared by Alex Gotthelf