

**Historic Preservation Committee
Meeting Minutes - May 17, 2022**

A meeting of the Mountain Lakes Historic Preservation Committee ("HPC" or the "Committee") was held virtually on Tuesday, May 17, 2022. In attendance were Alex Gotthelf (Chair), Ranjan O. Bose (Co-Chair), Ryan Astrup (Secretary), Mark Hoffman (Treasurer), Margaret DeWitt, Sueanne Sylvester, Brian Adams, Cynthia Korman (Borough Council Liaison), Grace Gower, Francis LaMuraglia

1. Welcome by Chair, Alex Gotthelf

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 19, 2022

The minutes of the *April 19, 2022* meetings were unanimously approved with corrections/typos. Ryan Astrup provided the Motion, Sueanne Sylvester provided the Second.

3. Reports

a) Borough Liaison:

1. Cynthia Korman stated that NJ Highlands Council (which provides drinking water for 7million NJ residents) will be presenting to Mountain Lakes Borough Council on June 13, 2022. There are two broad designations within the Highlands region, Preservation and Planning. Preservation towns must comply with NJ Highlands Commission (don't have choice) but Mountain Lakes is in a Planning area and has an option to comply. Complying with NJ Highland Commission opens opportunities for access to Grants such as Historic Preservation. The June 13 meeting will not focus on Historic Preservation, but will be open to public at Mountain Lakes High School. Alex suggested a member of HPC attend. Cynthia Korman added that there is a possibility that Highlands Council may be interested in talking directly to HPC.
2. Mountain Lakes Master Plan is to be revisited in 2023: HPC is in the Master Plan, so any change requests or suggestions should be included at this opportunity.

b) Treasurer: Mark Hoffman presented the following update:

1. 1 new image order for approx.. \$200
2. Items Salvage Shed \$50
3. Town Ledger shows 3 payments made for plaques, but no record of the orders – Mark needs to track (Margaret has record: orders were placed approx. 1 year ago but faced manufacturing issues)
4. ML-HPC cash balance is \$28,834.34, an increase of about \$300 from the prior month. This increase is from sales of images and salvage materials.
5. Updated simplified spreadsheet to be integrated into the minutes was requested by Alex
6. **Centennial Trust Fund (CTF):** Cynthia reported that the Borough Clerk did a search of town record regarding history of CTF. There is presently approximately \$10,000 in the fund. HPC wanted to know who controls that money. Cynthia reported that Dan Happer (Borough Council at the time), had mentioned that Borough Council controlled the money, but there are minutes that reflect the Centennial Committee had made a recommendation in 2010 that the money be given to HPC. It is not evident if it was put to a formal vote and approved. Cynthia will determine what actions are necessary to make a final decision as to the control of these funds.
7. Sueanne discussed the CTF issue with then Chair of Centennial Committee : HPC may have a hard drive with all minutes. A member of the committee will attempt to locate the minutes. Her understanding was that the money was earmarked for HPC.
8. 2012 Brough Council minutes indicate an amount of approximately \$4,000 (at the time) was in the fund and should be allocated to HPC.
9. More to be discussed and investigated

c) Archive. Continue to look for opportunities in Mountain Lakes to house future Archive.

1. Alex called Jonathan Holasek to discuss perceived pressure to leave Library. The Library has no specific need for the closet, but is concerned about the damage to archive due to water issues related to the building. Library has no intention of terminating it's relationship with HPC and the archive. This doesn't change anything relative to HPC needs for new archive space. This remains a high priority.
2. Brainstorming Session:
 - i. Cynthia reported that in a discussion with Mary Menard that space may be available "free of charge" in the proposed new public storage facility on Rt46.

- ii. Sueanne feels that the archive needs a more visible and dignified presence rather than something strictly utilitarian; something special like Boonton Museum.
 - iii. Discussion about the possibility of relocation to churches in town to host archive – St. Peters, The Community Church. Comments made that neither has the capacity.
 - iv. Mark Hoffman mentioned a conversation about a possibility of library expansion.
 - v. Post office was discussed as an option for additional space or proposed expansion
 - vi. Public display area for archive is desired.
 - vii. Sueanne suggested moving miniature rooms from Library to Wildwood, and reuse of those spaces for archive (would involve Board of Ed).
 - viii. Design storage wall in current space at library for storage and display of archive materials. Ryan to explore.
 - ix. Possibility that this could be a Borough Manager issue not borough council issue.
 - d) **Bulk Incentives Ordinance:** no report
 - e) **Social Media outreach:** Fred Adelson doing article in NJ Monthly of Mountain Lakes; Ranjan providing tour. HPC to get a mention in the article.
- Suggestion: Fun Facts/Teaser campaign: series of these ahead of Open House
- Sueanne's promotion of open House on Facebook is creating great attention
 - Follow up from NJ.COM visiting on Saturday and wants to see some things in archive as well as a Hapgood home. Margaret and Ryan volunteered their homes.
- f) **Salvage Shed**
Ryan reported collecting some windows from 150 Morris Ave and some trim from 176 Morris Ave. We also had 2 requests for materials in the shed.
 - g) **Oral Histories:**
Major reunions are in September. Suggestion that HPC should set up a booth to record people and open the archives. No action taken.
 - h) **Fundraising:** Suggestion to participate at Art Show at Esplanade in June with HPC stand. No action taken.
 - i) **Upcoming Events.** Mountain Lakes Day July 02 – preparation to be discussed after Open House in May - Margaret to check on table (usually at no cost)
 - j) **Open House:**
Organization and final prep:
 - 1. Masks Required signage suggested instead of Masks Recommended which is the current signage at the Library Community Room. The Committee agreed and Margaret will confirm with Library that a change of sign is permitted for the Open House and returned to Library policy after. Alex will confirm with Mitchell Stern that we can make that change.
 - 2. Signage to Shed, with arrows. Alex needs assistance to pitch signs.
 - 3. Sueanne asked to get on electronic sign at Borough Hall.
 - 4. Margaret: check in: all people at their posts. Volunteers needed for setup.
 - 5. Suggested that the Committee maintain a Sign-in sheet to demonstrate level of interest. Data of this kind comes up in the Morris County ReGrant application. Same for Salvage Shed.

4. *Old Business*

- a) Membership
 - 1. Tara Nielsen on call. Introductions and welcome
 - 2. Andy Thompson also strong candidate for interest in membership
 - 3. Peter Mills: still deciding
 - 4. Student front: Jessica and Olin Bose statement of interest to Borough Council required
- b) Bulk Incentive Ordinance Checklist: On hold
- c) Bulk Incentives Self-Certification Update: On hold
- d) EDAC: No report

5. *New Business*

- a) Suggestion: HPC by-laws should be reviewed for reminders regarding quorum requirements etc.
- b) Suggestion: Framed Images for Sale. Ask Rob Infante for options for images for framing. Committee to check into costs of framing, and work involved to touch up, keep for future events. No member assigned.
- c) Proposal: Then and Now project: pictures of past compared to pictures of today. Sueanne and Grace to explore.
- d) Announcement: Grace and Francis to be leaving the Committee. A send off will be made at the next meeting.
- e) Proposal: Archive Photo Access-- free of charge, to local realtors to help promote the community through real estate marketing.
Motion: Ranjan Bose provided a motion to explore a policy for charging or not charging realtors for use of old photographs. Mark second.
- f) Suggestion: Host a meeting at MLC.

Ranjan Bose provided motion to adjourn; Margret DeWitt provided the Second

Next meeting is scheduled for June 14, 2022

Minutes prepared by Ryan Astrup, and Alex Gotthelf