

Minutes of the Metuchen Historic Preservation Committee Regular Meeting September 22, 2022

Chair Nancy Zerbe called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. The chair announced that the Borough of Metuchen had posted public notice of the meeting in accordance with New Jersey's Open Public Meetings Act.

Attendance: Nancy Zerbe, Steven Patrick, Tyler Kandel (council liaison), Brian Keenan, Lisa Michaloski, and Tommy Mullins, and Suzanne Andrews

Public Comment: No members of the public were present.

Review of minutes: The minutes of May 26, 2022, meeting were reviewed; Brian Keenan/Tommy Mullins (unanimous) to approve. The minutes of June 22, 2022, meeting were reviewed; Lisa Michaloski/Brian Keenan (unanimous) to approve.

Historic Preservation Ordinance Project

Tyler Kandel:

- Tyler Kandel & Nancy Zerbe have incorporated HPC comments into ordinance draft and sent same on to Melissa Perilstein in mid-August to begin review process
- Tyler Kandel had meetings w/ Melissa Perilstein, Jonathan Busch, Jason Delia, and two of the Borough's attorneys to discuss policy & budget for HPC.

Tyler Kandel opened a discussion on HPC ideas regarding introduction of the ordinance to the public:

Brian Keenan: We must be clear about what we are promoting.

Tyler Kandel: Nancy's map of past demolitions is eye-opening. What can we do to mitigate demolitions?

Tommy Mullins: Gather testimonials from people in other towns where ordinances were adopted.

Tyler Kandel: We have good relationship with Westfield Mayor – perhaps meet with her to exchange ideas.

Nancy Zerbe: Will present list of other towns w/successful ordinances such as Westfield & Montclair.

Tyler Kandel: We could make another in-house video.

Brian Keenan: HPC members should share the existing video on their own Facebook pages.

Nancy Zerbe: We should reach out to Metuchenites who have expressed concerns about demolitions.

Steve Patrick: Utilize Nancy's map along with photos of historic Metuchen properties worth protecting.

Tyler Kandel: Nancy Zerbe & Tyler Kandel will be meeting with council members informally to discuss the draft ordinance.

Nancy Zerbe: Suggested that advocates tell their positive experience stories.

Tyler Kandel & Nancy Zerbe: Suggested that HPC members take up individual efforts:

- Brian Keenan - sustainability
- Suzanne Andrews - economic advantages
- Steve Patrick - poster
- Tommy Mullins- work on video
- Nancy Zerbe - dust off previous post
- Lisa Michaloski - work on specific posts
- Tyler Kandel - reach out to council members

Nancy Zerbe: It will be helpful that other municipalities have successful ordinances – will provide list.

Meeting adjourned at approx. 8:45 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Steve Patrick.