



CITY OF PLAINFIELD
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
 515 WATCHUNG AVENUE, ROOM 202
 PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY 07060



Adrian O. Mapp, Mayor

Sandra Gurshman, Chairwoman
 Lawrence Ferrara, Vice Chairman

MEETING MINUTES OF THE PLAINFIELD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MARCH 25, 2014, 7:30 PM, CITY HALL LIBRARY, 515 WATCHUNG AVENUE, PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY

CALL TO ORDER AND PUBLIC NOTICE

Chairwoman Sandy Gurshman called the regular meeting of the Plainfield Historic Preservation Commission to order at 7:32 PM and in conformance with the Open Public Meetings Act read aloud the following: *“This is a regularly scheduled meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission of the City of Plainfield, Union County, New Jersey. Adequate notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act in that a notice was published in the Courier News on February 8, 2014, and the notice of this meeting was posted in the City Clerk and Planning Division offices.”* Chairwoman Gurshman also noted for the record that the February 25, 2014, meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.

2014 Historic Preservation Commission Name, Class Designation (Term Duration)	1/28/14	2/25/14	3/25/14	4/22/14	5/27/14	6/24/14	7/22/14	8/26/14	9/23/14	10/28/14	11/18/14	12/16/14
Lawrence Ferrara, Class C (1/18/11 - 12/31/14)	X		X									
James Galvin, Alternate #1, Class A (1/3/13 - 12/31/14)	X		X									
Bill Garrett, Class B (2/3/12 - 12/31/15)	X											
Sandra Gurshman, Class B (1/18/11 - 12/31/14)	X		X									
Jan Jasper, Class C (1/3/13 - 12/31/16)			X									
Patricia Turner Kavanaugh, Class C (1/3/12 - 12/31/15)	X		X									
Elizabeth King, Class C (1/3/13 - 12/31/16)	X		X									
William Michelson, Class B (1/18/11 - 12/31/14)	X		X									
Regular Member #8 VACANT (4 year term ending 12/31/18)												
Regular Member #9 VACANT (unexpired term ending 12/31/16)												
Alternate Member #2 VACANT (2 year term ending 12/31/16)												

February 25 meeting cancelled (inclement weather)

PRESENTATION OF JANUARY 28, 2014, MEETING MINUTES

Ms. Turner Kavanaugh made a motion, seconded by Mr. Michelson, and unanimously approved by all to approve the January 28, 2014, meeting minutes as presented. Ms. Jasper abstained from voting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Carried Certificate of Appropriateness Applications

- A. HPC 13-15. 1007 Watchung Ave. Blk 639, Lot 16. Putnam Watchung H D. Elaine Burrell, Applicant & Owner
 The first hearing was January 28, 2014. Mr. Bauman reported that the Applicant has requested additional time; no new information provided since the January meeting. Chairwoman Gurshman opened the meeting to the public, with no public comment Chairwoman Gurshman closed the public portion of the meeting. With no further discussion, Mr. Michelson made a motion to carry application HPC 13-15 to April 22 with no further public notice. Ms. Turner Kavanaugh seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by voice vote.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

Carried Certificate of Appropriateness Applications

- B. HPC 13-16. 221 Park Avenue. Block 315, Lot 11. North Avenue HD. Rev. Willie Moody, Applicant
Rev. Willie Moody, operator of Chosen Generation Community Counseling Center of 221 Park Avenue introduced himself and reported that he had met with Mr. Bauman and Planning Director Nierstedt to discuss his proposal; he agreed to move one wall mounted sign indoors, and remove the North Avenue door sign so that there are no variance conditions. The sign above the doorway “Plainfield Health” on the Park Avenue side of the building has not been removed. A discussion ensued over the size lettering on each of the signs, the sign material, and how the city’s design guidelines address signage in the downtown area.

Chairwoman Gurshman opened the meeting to the public. Hearing no comments, Chairwoman Gurshman closed the public comment portion of the meeting. Ms. Turner Kavanaugh made a motion to approve after-the-fact installation of two wall-mounted signs as submitted; Ms. King seconded the motion. Ms. Hunton informed Commission members that she was concerned about setting a precedent and that the Commission may want to condition their approval based on existing signage. Ms. Turner Kavanaugh amended her motion to reflect Ms. Hunton’s concern, Ms. King seconded the amended motion. With no further discussion, the Commission voted to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness for Application HPC 13-16 as submitted with Mr. Michelson voting “no”.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Resolution in Memory of Commissioner David Westlake

The following resolution was read into the record by Mr. Bauman:

PLAINFIELD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Historic Preservation Commission of the City of Plainfield notes with sadness the death of Commissioner David Westlake, a highly esteemed resident of Plainfield, who passed from this life on January 15, 2014; and,

WHEREAS, Throughout his tenure on the Plainfield Historic Preservation Commission from 2009-2013, David Westlake served with dedication and commitment, earning the high regard and recognition of all who worked with him; and

WHEREAS, Dedicated to the community-at-large, David Westlake gave generously of his time and energy as a volunteer on the Architectural Review Committee; his praiseworthy history of concern for historic buildings and their owners established a standard of excellence toward which others might strive; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAINFIELD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION:

That this Commission hereby honors the memory of David Westlake, and extends profound sympathy and sincere condolences to the members of his family; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a duly authenticated copy of this resolution, signed by the Chairwoman and attested by the Secretary, be transmitted to the family of David Westlake.

The foregoing is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Historic Preservation Commission of the City of Plainfield at its meeting on March 25, 2014.

Mr. Michelson made a motion to adopt the resolution; Ms. King seconded the motion and was unanimously approved by voice vote.

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NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

2. Presentation of the 2013 Historic Preservation Commission Year End Report

Mr. Bauman highlighted portions of the report to the Commission. Mr. Michelson made a motion to approve the report as submitted and forward it to the Mayor, City Council, and Planning Board. Ms. Turner Kavanaugh seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously by voice vote.

3. Committee Reports

1. Community Outreach / Historic Preservation Awareness Committee

A. Postcard notifying owners in historic districts / locally designated historic sites.

Chairwoman Gurshman reported that the postcard design is finalized, and Mr. Bauman will obtain mailing labels.

B. Spanish translation of the city's Design Guidelines for Historic Districts and Sites.

Mr. Bauman reported that the city is seeking a new translation service provider- the previously designated person decided to withdraw after learning that he would have to register his business with the New Jersey Division of Taxation.

C. Revising Multiple Listings Service (MLS) forms to include historic designations.

Mr. Bauman reported no update.

2. Ordinance Revision Committee

Mr. Michelson reported no update.

3. Architectural Review Committee

Mr. Bauman reported that the Architectural Review Committee did not review any proposals in January.

PLANNING DIVISION REPORT

1. Zoning Approval / Denial Letters Issued by Zoning Officer- none for March

2. Zoning Violation Notices Issued by Zoning Officer

A. 316 East Seventh Street: front yard fence installed without a CA; first violation notice 10/22/13, second violation notice sent 1/2/14.

B. 1127 Watchung Avenue: commercial vehicle storage; owner found guilty in trial 2/13/14

C. 1202 Watchung Avenue: front porch railing installed without a CA; matter resolved

3. Property Maintenance Code Violation Reports Issued by Division of Inspections

A. 740 Belvidere Avenue. Abatement date 1/17/14- no report from Inspections Division yet.

4. Certificate of Compliance Notices Issued by Division of Inspections

A. 1003 Putnam Avenue. House, garage, sidewalk repair; re-inspection 12/17/13

B. 822 Webster Place. Driveway and driveway apron constructed without approval; re-inspection 12/17/13

C. 825 First Place. House, driveway, chimney, fencing, windows; re-inspection 11/29/13

DISCUSSION

1. Lampkin House & Barn, 852 Terrill Road

Mr. Bauman reported no update. The city needs to expedite any land swap so that stabilization work can begin immediately. The city cannot utilize the Union County matching grant until the property is listed on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places.

2. Green Brook Park: Replacement of Pedestrian Bridge

Ms. Hunton distributed a draft drawing of a pedestrian bridge prepared by Union County. Mr. Galvin commented that he likes this plan a lot better. It was noted that the sketch depicts a bridge that is bigger than historically it was- originally the bridge was 54' long, the proposal calls for an 80' long bridge. The railing height of 42 inches meets the ASHTO requirement. Ms. Hunton commented that the wood used will be pressure treated. After further discussion, Ms. Hunton agreed to reach out to the County to relay comments about the proposal.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Galvin made a motion for adjournment, seconded by Ms. Turner Kavanaugh; all voted in favor, none opposed. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Bauman

Scott Bauman, AICP, PP
Principal Planner / HPC Secretary, Plainfield Planning Division
Prepared: May 13, 2014

MOTION TO APPROVE: _____

SECOND: _____

APPROVED: _____

ABSTAINED: _____