



**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**  
**JULY 22, 2014, 7:30 PM, CITY HALL 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR LIBRARY, 515 WATCHUNG AVENUE, PLAINFIELD, NJ**

**CALL TO ORDER AND PUBLIC NOTICE**

Chairwoman Sandy Gurshman called the regular meeting of the Plainfield Historic Preservation Commission to order at 7:37 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 2/8/2014, and the notice of this meeting was posted in the City Clerk and Planning Division offices.”

2014 Historic Preservation Commission Name, Class Designation (Term Ends)	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 (12/31/14)	X		X	X	X	X	X					
James Galvin, Alternate #1, Class A (12/31/14)	X		X									
Sandra Gurshman, Class B (12/31/14)	X		X	X	X	X	X					
William Michelson, Class B (12/31/14)	X		X	X	X	X	X					
Bill Garrett, Class B (12/31/15)	X			X	X	X						
Patricia Turner Kavanaugh, Class C (12/31/15)	X		X	X		X						
Jan Jasper, Class C (12/31/16)			X		X		X					
Elizabeth King, Class C (12/31/16)	X		X	X	X	X	X					
John Favazzo, Class A (12/31/17)	n/a		n/a	X	X	X	X					
Larry Quirk (12/31/17)	n/a		n/a	X	X	X	X					
Alternate Member #2 VACANT (2 year term)												

*February 25 meeting cancelled (inclement weather)*

**PRESENTATION OF JUNE 24, 2014, MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Michelson made a motion, seconded by Ms. King, to accept the June 24, 2014, meeting minutes as submitted. HPC unanimously approved, with exception of Ms. Jasper, who abstained from voting since she was absent from the meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. New Certificate of Appropriateness Applications**

- A. HPC 14-05. 128 West Eighth Street. Block 713, Lot 9. Van Wyck Brooks Historic District  
 After-the-fact approval for the installation of a front yard fence. Applicant & Owner: W.A.M., LLC

The applicant was not present. Mr. Michelson made a motion to carry the application for two months-until 8/26/13. Ms. King seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously by voice vote.

- B. HPC 14-07. 231 East Ninth Street. Block 830, Lot 9. Crescent Area Historic District  
After-the-fact approval for front porch floor, stairs, railing, and spindle replacement. Applicant & Owner: SYNC, LLC. The Applicant's principal, Susan Wong, PO Box 836, South Plainfield NJ, introduced herself to the Commission. Ms. Wong told the Commission that she bought the house on short sale. The front porch needed repairs, she applied to the Building Department, received her permit, repaired the porch and mid-way through the work the Zoning Department informed her that the house is in a historic district.

Chairwoman Gurshman told Ms. Wong that the permit was for repair and instead you replaced; Ms. Wong said when she attempted to repair, it fell apart. Ms. Hunton said the permit was for repair, not replacement and the decking was not repaired in kind, it was totally rebuilt- the applicant put flooring on top of old decking.

Mr. Favazzo asked about the porch railing; Ms. Wong said she did not touch the porch railing- just the porch decking and the hand rails for the front steps. Mr. Favazzo asked Ms. Wong if she had any "before" pictures. Ms. Wong replied she did not but she will ask her realtor. The Zoning Department took pictures of the hand railing when it was initially removed, the Commission and the applicant reviewed the pictures and discussed the design of the railing as well as the type of floor decking that was installed over the original porch floor. Ms. Hunton noted that the building permit does not mention decking at all, in light of that she thinks the deck should be replaced properly- take both layers off and install a new layer. Mr. Michelson suggested that the Architectural Review Committee look at the porch, Mr. Quirk agreed and Mr. Favazzo volunteered to assist. The Commission agreed to carry this part of the application to August 26.

Ms. Wong said there are some broken pieces of wood siding that need to be replaced and painted. Mr. Favazzo said installing new siding is fine but the pieces need to be cut down to match the width of the existing shingles.

Chairwoman Gurshman opened the meeting to the public- no one from the public commented. Mr. Michelson made a motion to bifurcate the application- approve the wood siding repair work and carry the porch deck and hand rail work to August 26, 2014. Mr. Quirk seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by voice vote.

## **2. Request for Time Extension for Certificate of Appropriateness Issued July 13, 2012**

HPC 12-06. 900 Madison Avenue. Block 759, Lot 1. Van Wyck Brooks Historic District  
Applicant is requesting additional time to comply with condition #2 of the Certificate of Appropriateness concerning the removal of first floor bay windows and replacing them with diamond shaped, leaded glass windows. Applicant & Owner: Jose Martinez

The applicant was not present; Mr. Bauman informed the Commission that he would follow up with a court summons to the applicant.

## **3. Discussion- Proposed Ground Sign with LED Display at 516 West Sixth Street- St. Mary's Church**

Representatives from the church were not present. Mr. Bauman will contact the church representatives and reschedule the discussion for August 26, 2014.

#### 4. Committee Reports

##### A. Community Outreach / Historic Preservation Awareness Committee

- Postcards. Awaiting the Spanish translation of the postcard to be posted on the HPC website before mailing the postcards to the public.
- Spanish translation of the city's Design Guidelines for Historic Districts and Sites. Ms. Hunton and Juan Ayala of GRID Design Studios, LLC are working on the site layout. An estimate for site layout is needed prior to entering into a professional services contract.
- Revising Multiple Listing Service (MLS) forms to include historic designations. No report.

B. Ordinance Revision Committee. No report.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mr. Michelson made a motion for adjournment, seconded by Ms. King; all voted in favor, none opposed. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

*Scott Bauman*

Scott Bauman, AICP, PP

Principal Planner / HPC Secretary, Plainfield Planning Division

Prepared: September 22, 2014

Approved by the Historic Preservation Commission September 23, 2014