



Leonia Historic Preservation Commission

312 Broad Avenue, Leonia, NJ 07605

Minutes: Meeting of February 9, 2015

Present: John Roynon, Linda Green, Frank Rovelli

Council Liaison: Pat Fusco

Guest: David Braun, Jeff Sticco

The meeting was called to order at 7:40pm.

The minutes from the last meeting were read and accepted as corrected.

Correspondence:

- None

Borough Council Liaison Report:

- Pat F. reported he has brought the council up to date and has mentioned that we are in need of a Class A member.

Old Business:

- Budget and Finances: John R. reported that Myrna Becker increased our annual budget to \$1,000.00.
- Broad Avenue Historic Sign — David B. reported that he and Linda G. have started selecting photos for possible inclusion and expect to share content recommendations at our March meeting.
- List of 1910-1920 houses — John R. has prompted Bernadette Flaim again for a list 100 year houses. If nothing is forthcoming we will need to figure out another plan for developing this list. It was suggested we could contact McAlear Cavalier realtors.
- Replacement of Town Signs: John R. confirmed that he emailed Jack Terhune with the commission's feedback on the materials and layout that's been proposed. David B. is still researching the wording that was on the back of the sign that used to be at the library.
- Ferdon House — Is there anything we can do to save this house? Pat Fusco will look it over.

- Civil War Drill Hall — David Braun informed the commission that he advised Mark Watson of the Players' Guild that there is a \$15,000.00 matching grant program available.
- Facebook Page — Frank R. reported that the Morris County Historical Society has a FB page but he did not find any for historical commissions. This led to discussion that it's probably not a good idea, from a legal standpoint, for the commission to have a FB page given that it is a government body.
- Town Calendar — David B. reported that the theme of the 2016-2017 calendar has not yet been assigned and he will contact Carol Karels with the aim of securing it to help promote historical preservation.

New Business:

- Closter Historical Preservation Commission — John R. suggested that everyone take a look at the website for Closter Historical Preservation Commission (www.closterhistory.com) as the commission appears to be very well organized and their site is a potential source of valuable information. John R. plans to contact the commission and ask if it would be okay for some of us to attend their next meeting.
- John R. to reach out to Mr. Will Lee of Englewood as a potential Class A member.
- Leonia Day is Sunday May 17, 2015. This event provides an opportunity to educate the public about the benefits of having a Historic Preservation Commission. The commission plans to review existing materials and update any that we still wish to use — including maps. We also need to create activities to engage the public e.g. coloring contest or connect-the-dots for children (ideas: a Victorian home, a trolley), a sheet for children that they can use to identify different style homes around town (colonial, arts and crafts, etc.), Where's this old house? Slideshow of historic sites. Frank R. to inquire if we can borrow a large monitor, Pat F. to ask someone he knows if we can borrow a canopy, John R. to assess existing materials, John R. to get costs for printing T shirts (image of the old Leonia train station sign with "Preserving Leonia's Heritage for Future Generations" wording?).
- Train Station Sign - Linda G. requested that David Braun bring the sign to the meeting for all to see and posed the question "What shall we do with it?" Robert Metzdorf, in whose possession it originally was, donated the sign and would like it to be on public display. It doesn't seem wise to put it in an exterior location. One possibility would be to display it in the Boro Annex or in the library basement. No conclusion was reached.
- Jeff Sticco attended our meeting and expressed an interest in joining the commission. He grew up in Leonia and has a background in interior design.
- John R. forwarded contact information to David B. of a person that contacted the Boro with a view to providing some memorabilia from his grandfather's family who lived in Leonia.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:33pm.

Next meeting will be on Monday, March 9, 2015 at 7:30pm at the Borough Hall Annex.

Respectfully submitted,

John Roynon and Linda Green