

MINUTES
RED BANK HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
June 19, 2024

The Red Bank Historic Preservation Commission held a meeting on Wednesday, June 19, 2024, at 7:00 PM, in the municipal building, first floor, 90 Monmouth Street, Red Bank, New Jersey.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. A roll call showed that Marjorie Cavalier, Liam Collins, Doug Miller, Louis Almerini, and Karen Schmelzkopf attended. Shawna Ebanks, Board Secretary, was also present. Paul Cagno was absent.

The Open Public Meeting Statement Act was read. Adequate notice was posted in the newspaper, the Borough Clerk's office, the Borough website, outside the Red Bank Council Chambers, and on the front door of Borough Hall.

Regular Meeting Minutes: May 15, 2024

Motion: Approved as presented

Moved by: Doug Miller

Seconded by: Marjorie Cavalier

Ayes: Marjorie Cavalier, Liam Collins, Doug Miller, Louis Almerini, and Karen Schmelzkopf

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Public Comment

Cindy Burnham, 71 Wallace Street, inquired about the process for designating 32 Wallace Street as a historic site. Marjorie Cavalier explained that she would need to follow the process laid out in the ordinance to designate an individual site.

Two River Times Article

The Commission discussed the news publication, which mention the recent approval of the 17-19 Broad application.

Historic Districts and Sites Property Owner Letters

Marjorie Cavalier emphasized that the letters should be mailed out to the property owners so that they know their property is listed as historic.

Irving Place District Letter

Shawna Ebanks informed the Board that the notice was incorrect and that the Board's attorney needed further guidance. If the notice is done incorrectly, the presentation for the designation will be pushed to the August meeting instead of the July meeting.

NJ Historic Preservation Conference

Marjorie Cavalier attended the Conference on June 6 in Jersey City. The theme was connecting history by road, rail, and river. She attended various sessions and networked with other Commissions and professionals in the preservation field. She connected with Kenney Clark from CLG and is the contact person for submitting the Borough's CLG application. He can help us put the application together and review our submission.

Additionally, The Historic Trust grant awards will be announced in September. Another session she attended was on community ties and engagement, so a panel of HPCs from Montclair, Burlington City, and Cranberry discussed collaborating with the local library for workshops on historic preservation. It would be to inform people who live in these designated districts to have some Q&A with the Commission.

Another suggestion from the Conference was for a local HPC award for property owners who return their properties. The award would be for those who closely followed the guidelines and would be given out by the Commission at the beginning of the year. The Commission would give out a certificate, and the property owner could display it.

Marjorie also mentioned that the Commission should assemble a pamphlet about historic preservation in the Borough to be displayed at the library and Borough Hall.

Marjorie also suggested that the Commission create a new Board member orientation packet.

Liam Collins talked about a section of Red Bank called Goosetown, which comprised Prospect Avenue, Mechanic Street, Marion Street, and Harrison Avenue. A black baseball league was formed there.

The closing speaker at the Conference was someone from the Federal government who discussed a new funding opportunity for helping property owners.

Preservation of Ghost Signs

The Commission discussed the possibility of asking the Governing Body to put in place an ordinance for the preservation/identification of ghost signs discovered during the project's construction phase. The Commission should consider designated existing ghost signs that are already displayed throughout the Borough. Consideration should be given to creating an app to display past and existing ghost signs discovered as a walking tour. Louis Almerini will draft a letter to the Governing Board suggesting taking action to preserve ghost signs.

RiverCenter

RiverCenter reached out to the Commission for a meeting to discuss how the two entities can work together for more preservation initiatives with new businesses and structures within the special improvement district. The goal of the conference is to collaborate on activities that help display the history of the Borough. Three Commission members will attend the meeting with RiverCenter in July.

Doug Miller commented that he found a cannonball in his backyard, possibly from the Revolutionary War. Marjorie Cavalier suggested he contact the Superintendent to see if they want to use it for their history lesson.

Liam Collins also commented that since the day was Juneteenth, he wanted to highlight that the east side of town has pockets of African American neighborhoods that Count Baise would visit when he came back to Red Bank.

Louis Almerini motioned to adjourn the meeting, which Doug Miller seconded. Accordingly, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 PM.

Respectfully,
Shawna Ebanks
Historic Preservation Commission Secretary