

Westwood Historic Commission
Meeting Minutes Wednesday, January 9, 2013
Municipal Complex
101 Washington Avenue

1. Opening of the Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M.

2. Roll Call (present)

Donald Rubin, Chair

David Hohmann, Secretary

Otokar von Bradsky (Peter)

Ray Arroyo, Councilmember Liaison

Gregory Dietrich, Preservation Consultant

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the December 12th meeting were approved unanimously.

5. Proceedings

Ray Arroyo was introduced to the Commission as the new Councilmember Liaison. Donald Rubin was unanimously re-elected as Chairman and David Hohmann was elected Secretary, both for a one-year term. Having Gregory Dietrich present at all meetings was also discussed and deemed appropriate.

The meeting's first topics of discussion was an overview of 2012 that included the successful completion of the Downtown Westwood Designation Report, an appraisal of the public comments received at the August 2012 open public meeting, the ongoing discussion on the future of the Downtown District designation and the future roll of the HPC. The designation of the Downtown District and future role of the Commission are ongoing. At the very least, both decisions will not be resolved until more members have been appointed to the HPC. An effort is underway to recruit more members; four are needed.

Other matters discussed included 1) the requirement to have applicants for a Certificate of Appropriateness appear before the Commission; 2) the hearing on the application for a Certificate of Appropriateness; and 3) what form shall the Certificate of Appropriateness follow. Ways of streamlining the process and reducing the economic impact of the HPC are still of major concern to the members. A Certificate of Appropriateness has not yet been created for use in Westwood. The various forms that a Certificate of Appropriateness could take were briefly discussed and will be a topic for upcoming meetings. A Certificate of Appropriateness should be able to reflect the goals of the Westwood HPC, Planning Board and City Council and in so doing may make the designation of historical districts a better mix of public and private goals and obligations.

There followed an open discussion on how to best educate the community on what role the HPC has in maintaining the economic and historic properties of Westwood. The Tenafly Design Guidelines for Landmarks and Historic Districts was given as an example of an appropriate means of presenting the many faceted roll the HPC can provide to the community. The document may provide a template for an approach that Westwood could take.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 13 at 7:30 PM at the Westwood Borough Hall if the Meeting Room is available. An e-mail will be sent out to confirm the meeting.