

**Westwood Historic Preservation Commission
Meeting Minutes Wednesday, May 14, 2014
Municipal Complex
101 Washington Avenue**

1. Opening of the Public Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 P.M.

2. Roll Call

David Hohmann, Chair – present

Joe Rivers, Vice-Chair - present

Eric Gsellmeier, Secretary – present

Edmund Choimski – present

Donald Rubin – present

Dulce Acevedo-Mateo – present

Jim Murphy – absent

Gregory Dietrich, Preservation Consultant – present

Robert Biccocchi, Councilmember Liaison – present

3. Pledge of Allegiance, Statement of Adequate Notice and Open Meeting Act

4. Proceedings

The minutes for the April meeting were not approved, as they were not distributed prior to the meeting.

The Commission's reassignments were approved by the City Council.

The bylaws have been reviewed by the Council Attorney (Russell Huntington). They now need to be formally submitted to the Council for approval.

Outreach and Support

We discussed attending the Westwood Heritage Society meetings, as well as attending other related Commission meetings, particularly the Planning, Zoning and Land Use Committees. The Heritage Society has open meetings each Wednesday and one Saturday per month. Other Commission meetings occur as per the town's Calendar.

Train Station

The Commission discussed the potential of listing structures in Westwood on the New Jersey and National Registers. Important structures discussed included the Westwood Train Station, two NJ Transit Bridges and the Veteran's Park Bandstand.

With the listing of many train stations in NJ after the 1984 National Register of Historic Places, Operating Passenger Railroad Stations in New Jersey Survey was completed, including the listing of the Hillsdale Station, the HPC feels that listing the Westwood Station would be worth pursuing.

At the time of the 1984 Survey the Westwood Train Station did not get a particularly high mark. In 1984 the Train Station was barely 50 years old (the cutoff age for the Survey) and was in need of extensive repairs. Since the Survey, NJ Transit and the Westwood Heritage Society have made extensive restorations. As a result, the HPC believes that the Train Station would be a candidate for inclusion. The HPC would look for support from NJ Transit, the Westwood Heritage Society, and the Borough.

Other Designation Projects

The National Register has also completed a survey on NJ Historic Bridges. Two NJ Transit bridges in Westwood were included in the report and recommended for listing. The two bridges are the Pascack Creek Bridge SHPO Opinion 2/3/1999 and the Musquapsink Brook Railroad Bridge.

The HPC will continue to look into structures throughout Westwood for possible listing on the National and NJ Register of Historic Places. The HPC will continue to gain the support of property owners in obtaining listings. Listing on the New Jersey and National Registers does not place additional restrictions on private property owner rights. The registries are the official list of historic resources worthy of preservation. Registered buildings have a degree of protection from public encroachment (section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966). Inclusion of a property allows the owner to take advantage of several financial benefits. The Tax Reform Act of 1986 permits owners to take a 20% income tax credit on the cost of rehabilitating such buildings for industrial, commercial, or rental residential purposes.

Designating structures in Westwood is a separate matter. Listing on the National or State Register does not imply that the structure will be designated by the Borough.

Bandstand

The Commission will conduct further research looking at whether the Bandstand can be designated and/or if it can be listed on the National or State Register of Historic Places.

Estimates to replace the roof tiles were received by the Borough and repairs are under review. The HPC supports the historic preservation of the structure.

5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 PM. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 11th at 7:30 PM at the Westwood Borough Hall if the Meeting Room is available.