



Westfield Historic Preservation Commission

Meeting Date: February 28, 2022

In Attendance: Maria Boyes (Chair), Jennifer Jaruzelski (Vice-Chair), Carol Tener (historian), Mark LoGrippo (TC), Jaqueline Brevard, Alison Carey, Greg Blasi, Mary Ann Healy (A1), Kathryn Reed (A2), Ann Freedman (PB)

The minutes from the January 24, 2022, meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Jaruzelski and seconded by Ms. Healy. The minutes were approved.

Meet & Greet:

Chair Boyes noted that the February meeting is the traditional "meet and greet" to encourage the public to get to know the members of the commission. She began by introducing herself and explaining her interest in preservation and her role on the commission. Each member followed in turn with their own personal stories as to why they joined the commission.

Chair Boyes took a moment to acknowledge the recent local designations in Westfield recently voted on by the Town Council. The Train Station Kiosk, which dates back to 1893, on the south side lot. The second, a private home at 23 Stoneleigh Park, which was built circa 1905. And the third, 112 Ferris Place, originally owned by J.S. Ferris and built circa 1750.

To clarify misunderstandings made by the public, Chair Boyes reiterated the statement made by former Vice-Chair Jacqueline Brevard at the last Town Council meeting regarding 112 Ferris Place. This commission's sole purview, and what was voted upon, led by Vice-Chair Brevard, was the designation of the historic home, which includes the lot it sits on. It does not include the development that is proposed on the adjacent lot.

Historic Downtown Survey:

Chair Boyes introduced Margaret Hickey of Connolly & Hickey Historical Architects; the firm engaged by the HPC to do a preliminary survey of the downtown. Ms. Hickey provided some background and was invited to share her screen to present her illustrated talk on historic buildings in the downtown and their potential for state and national historic designation. Ms. Boyes then opened the floor to comments and questions from the Commission. Ms. Freedman inquired what other railroad suburbs in New Jersey are on the state or national register. Ms. Hickey replied that Maplewood and Glen Ridge both have downtown historic districts.

Chair Boyes opened the meeting to the public.

Peter Primavera of Boulevard noted in the chat box that downtown Summit is on the national registry. Mr. Primavera then asked if this was a preliminary survey, a historic site survey, or a cultural resources survey. Ms. Hickey replied that it was a preliminary to intensive-level survey.

John Sharkey, archivist for the Mountainside preservation committee, inquired why Westfield's two train stations are not included as part of a potential historic district. Ms. Hickey replied that both are proposed for individual recognition but because there are so many ineligible properties on North and South avenues it poses a problem with the continuity of the district.

Chair Boyes closed the meeting to the public and thanked Ms. Hickey for her presentation.

Adjournment:

Chair Boyes asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Brevard motioned to adjourn and Ms. Jaruzelski seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 pm.