



## Westfield Historic Preservation Commission

**Meeting Date:** March 28, 2022

**In Attendance:** Maria Boyes (Chair), Jennifer Jaruzelski (Vice-Chair), Carol Tener (historian), Barton Ross (HPO), Mark LoGripo (TC), Jaqueline Brevard, Alison Carey, Greg Blasi, Mary Ann Healy (A1), Kathryn Reed (A2), Ann Freedman (PB), Tom Jardim, Town Attorney

The adoption of the minutes of the February 23, 2022, meeting was tabled until the next meeting. Chair Boyes noted that since a full transcript was distributed in lieu of minutes, several members didn't have time to read through them and make corrections.

### **New Business:**

#### **Major application of Andrew and Heather Stillufsen, 667 Fourth Avenue**

Chair Boyes provided background on the application. The Stillufsens received permission from the planning board in 2017 to subdivide their property, known as the Matthias Sayre House, with the stipulation that any new structure to be built on it must be approved by the Commission. The Commission granted approval of the proposed design with some amendments at their May 20, 2019 meeting. However, under town code, such approval only lasts two years so the application is now being resubmitted without changes by the Stillufsens.

Town Attorney Tom Jardim swore in the applicants Andrew and Heather Stillufsen. Andrew Stillufsen noted they had a contract of sale for the property contingent upon approval of the plans. The Stillufsens shared their screen to review the architecture and site plans.

Chair Boyes asked for comments from the Commission. Greg Blasi asked that the plans state the roof be a natural tone of galvanized, zinc-coated copper, or copper and not painted metal. He also asked that any retaining walls match the stone on the house.

Chair Boyes opened the meeting to comments or questions from the public. Seeing none, she closed the meeting.

Attorney Jardim noted that a major application for a Certificate of Appropriateness to construct a single-family dwelling requires a roll call vote. He added that the memorializing resolution will specifically include the plans, materials list and all conditions agreed to by the homeowners.

Ms. Brevard made a motion to approve the application with the conditions as discussed; it was seconded by Ms. Jaruzelski. Ms. Carey conducted the roll call vote with all members voting yes except Ms. Freedman who recused herself.

**Report of the Historic Preservation Officer:**

Barton Ross, HPO, reported that the application to become a Certified Local Government (CLG) is being reviewed by the NJ historic preservation office. As part of the application, he is preparing an Annual Report for the commission.

Mr. Ross also reported that he reviewed the plans for the proposed train station restaurant in his advisory role as HPO. Attorney Jardim noted that the plans do not come before the commission. Councilman LoGrippe asked if the train station is designated historic and about the extent of the alterations. Greg Blasi clarified that the changes are primarily interior, the roofline and footprint of the building will not change. Mr. Ross noted that the station is not on the state or national historic register but is eligible according to an opinion issued by the SHPO. He recommended that the town submit the drawings to the SHPO for a staff-level review.

**Committee Reports:**

**Funding:**

Ms. Healy reported that she is working with Mr. Ross on applying for a \$60,000 Historic Sites Management Grant that is a 3-to-1 matching grant from the state. If approved, the funds could be used to complete the intensive-level survey of the downtown for the historic plan element, as well as educational and outreach opportunities. The deadline is April 14 and requires input and approval from the town.

**Communications/Outreach:**

Ms. Jaruzelski reported that she and other commissioners observed "Build Montclair," a Lego workshop where families create historic structures out of Legos, in hopes of bringing a similar program to Westfield. Discussions are underway with the Recreation Department to partner on a program for next winter.

Ms. Jaruzelski also noted that she was contacted by the Town Clerk's office to help provide historic views of the town for their redesigned offices.

**Designation and Historic Homeowner Relations:**

Ms. Brevard reported on the efforts to resurrect interest in designating the 200 block of West Dudley Ave. They currently have 7 consent forms out of 14 properties. Some homeowners asked if Clark Park could be included in the designated district. Councilman LoGrippe agreed to follow up on this at Ms. Brevard's request.

Ms. Reed reported that she and Chair Boyes had delivered an historic plaque to the new homeowners in the Kimball Ave. Historic District at their request.

Chair Boyes opened the meeting up to public comment.

Peter Primavera of 534 Boulevard clarified some questions surrounding the designation of the train station and plaza. He then asked if the Downtown Historic Survey on the HPC website was a final report or a draft; Ms. Jaruzelski stated it was the presentation made at the previous meeting, not an official report. Mr. Primavera then stated that he has sent numerous emails to the Commission that have not been answered.

Chairman Boyes closed the meeting to the public. In response to Mr. Primavera's questions, she noted that communications to the HPC are usually answered in a timely manner.

**Adjournment:**

Ms. Healy made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Ms. Jaruzelski. The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 pm.