

CHATHAM BOROUGH HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

September 21, 2021

7:30 p.m.

Chairman James Greener called this Regular Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. by way of Zoom.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10: 4-6 et. seq. adequate notices of this meeting have been provided by including same in the Annual Notice, copies of which were posted on the official bulletin board on the main floor of Borough Hall, emailed to the Chatham Courier, and the Daily Record, on January 27, 2021.

Names	Present	Absent
James J. Greener, Chrmn	X	
Frank Truilo, Council Member	X	
Carolyn Dempsey, Council Member	X	
Catherine Chin	X	
Lynn Magrane	X	
Liz Holler, Recording Secretary	X	

Also in attendance:

Karen Franklin, an interested resident

Public Comments

There were none.

Motion to Adopt Meeting Minutes

The Commission will review the June 15, 2021 HPC meeting minutes and will notify Ms. Holler if these minutes are approved as submitted, or if edits were needed.

Discussion Items

HPC Flag Award Update

Chrmn. Greener discussed the house (157 Watchung Ave.) who will be receiving the award from the HPC. Council Member Dempsey felt that more history should be uncovered about the house. Chrmn. Greener stated judging from the appearance of the original lumber inside the house, it looks as though the house may date back to the 1840s or 1850s. In a construction/historical sense, the house has “old bones”.

Chrmn. Greener explained to Mrs. Franklin, tonight’s visitor, that Council Member Dempsey’s husband, Brian, had designed a handsome banner for the HPC to present to the owners of 120 Watchung Ave. This home had recently been beautifully renovated. At Chrmn. Greener’s suggestion, Council Member Dempsey held up the banner to the Zoom screen.

Commissioners discussed having a different banner designed for any commercial buildings that may receive the HPC award in the future. Commissioners discussed how to handle future nominations.

HPC Ordinance Changes

Chrmn. Greener reported that he had talked with Borough Administrator Steve Williams about these revisions. It would be a good idea for HPC representatives to set down with the Madison Building Department to review these changes. Council Member Truilo suggested that Russ Brown, the Construction Official, be invited to this ordinance meeting.

Design Guidelines update

Council Member Dempsey noted that the Design Guidelines should be assigned to a future Borough Council meeting agenda.

Council Member Truilo suggested a “soft launch” be done for these Guidelines on the Chatham Borough website.

Chrmn. Greener offered to download a copy of the Design Guidelines to Mrs. Franklin.

Returning to the HPC Flag Award for 120 Watchung Ave., Mrs. Franklin said she would visit the Hall of Records in Morristown to research more history on that home. At this time, the ownership and history needed more clarity. Some of the Commissioners offered to join Mrs. Franklin on this field trip to look up the records on this home and property.

Council Member Truilo asked if Commissioners had picked a date yet to present the HPC Flag to the homeowners. Chrmn. Greener pointed out that since the days are getting shorter, an evening ceremony would not work out anymore. Perhaps an Autumn Sunday afternoon would be better, provided the homeowners were available. Chrmn. Greener would like Brian Siegel, the architect for this project to be included in the Flag Award presentation.

Mrs. Franklin said she will fill out a Borough Volunteer Form to apply for membership on the Historic Preservation Commission.

At 8:16 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Chatham Borough Historic Preservation Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 19, 2021, 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler
Recording Secretary