

Pompton Lakes Historic Preservation Commission Minutes of March 28, 2023

Laura Jennings, in accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meeting Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-7, opened the in-person meeting of the Pompton Lakes Historic Preservation Commission at 7:01pm. This meeting has been advertised in the *Suburban Trends* and posted in the Municipal Building.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Paul Bowlby, Ed Crowley, Al Evangelista, Laura Jennings, Keith Lockwood, Jared Luciani, Brian O'Malley, David Rowan

EXCUSED: None

ABSENT: None

VISITORS: Erin Hunkemoller, Ed Merrill, Chris Yu

MINUTES – Brian O'Malley made a motion to approve and accept the February 28, 2023, regular meeting minutes, seconded by Dave Rowan. The motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE and PHONE CALLS:

Wells Fargo Renovation – Laura shared information received about Wells Fargo wanting to renovate and cover up the historic mural inside the bank depicting the Pompton Furnace. Although the Wells Fargo building is not registered as a historic site, Laura advised that it is listed in the borough's master plan as historic. Ed Merrill explained that our commission should have enough influence to be able to ask the bank to preserve its cultural assets and have it archived and documented. Discussion followed, emphasizing the need to contact the bank as soon as possible. Laura drafted a letter for review and will also reach out to Passaic County Historic Commission for further advice.

Vince DelaMontaigne Book – Vince grew up in Pompton Lakes and will be donating one of his books to our commission and the library.

The meeting was opened for public comment at 7:16pm.

Welcome Guests

Erin Hunkemoller moved to Pompton Lakes in August 2022 and recently saw us on Facebook. She has a NYC tour guide license and is very interested in finding out more about becoming a member of the Pompton Lakes Historic Preservation Commission. Her experience would tie in nicely with the NJ Heritage Plan to provide more walking tours of historic sites throughout New Jersey.

Chris Yu is the new owner of The Overlook house at the end of Bartholf Ave. It is a historic home with much needed repairs. He was advised by the borough building inspector to contact us for advice. Discussion followed on needed repairs of the porch and its roof. Laura asked Chris to email us photos and the architect's plans for review and approval.

Ed Merrill is a longtime resident of Pompton Lakes who will be donating an old gun that his great grandfather was able to wrestle from a would-be robber of his store in downtown Pompton Lakes many years ago. Along with the gun, Ed will be providing the written background story of how the gun was attained.

OLD BUSINESS:

Marketing/Strategic Planning – To start, Keith provided a Historic Commission introduction letter to be included in the borough calendar. After some discussion, all agreed to submit the letter as provided. Keith's marketing plan was discussed further outlining the framework to include community awareness and surveying historic properties at least once every ten years. He explained that The Friends of the Historic Commission is an important component of the commission that would allow fundraising. Logos were reviewed. Keith shared his story of the Pompton Lakes witch and how it could promote interest in Pompton Lakes. Halloween walking tour was also mentioned.

Artistic Weaving – Ceremony to be scheduled.

Museum – Borough Administrator Paula suggested WGBH radio station on the south end of Lincoln Ave as a possible museum location. Although it's in the flood zone, Ed Merrill explained an elevation certificate could be attained. The upper floor is well above the flood zone, along with the central air and all other utilities. More details to follow. Jared reminded members that the PLRYO storage cabinet is available when needed.

Storage Unit Clean Up – Scheduled for June 4th with rain date of June 11th.

Annual Report – Annual report is ready to be submitted by the 3/31/23 deadline.

NEW BUSINESS:

Vacancies/Membership – One member vacancy available. Erin Hunkemoller will let us know if she is interested.

Training – Laura enjoyed the recent training she attended over the weekend and recommends it to all members. She has asked Paula to add training expenses to the budget so that more members can attend.

Our next meeting is April 25, 2023, 7:00pm – to be held at Pompton Lakes Civic Center located at 25 Lenox Ave in Pompton Lakes. Please contact Laura Jennings by email at historic@pomptonlakes-nj.gov if you cannot attend the meeting.

Having no further business to discuss, Keith Lockwood made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:02pm, seconded by Brian O'Malley, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Cristiane Jennings