

**Township of Verona
Historic Preservation Commission**

**Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2021**

1. Call to order

Chairman Glenn Houthuysen called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm.

2. Statement of compliance

Chairman Houthuysen advised that notice of the meeting was published pursuant to the requirements of the NJ Open Public Meetings Act.

3. Roll call of members.

- Glenn Houthuysen (Chairman)
- Martin Golan
- Joe Hallock
- Dianne Oster
- Jack McEvoy
- Kelly Ruffel - excused
- Sandra Smith

4. Adoption of minutes from the May 25, 2021 meeting

The meeting minutes from May 25, 2021 were accepted into the record.

5. Old business

- a. VHPC meeting in March will be scheduled for March 10, 2022
- b. Preservation conferences
 - Workshops
 - Mr. Hallock participated in a training course on historic preservation which was a good overview of the whole story including history, philosophy, etc.,
 - a. "Introduction to Historic Preservation." It was offered by MARCH, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Center for the Humanities, part of the Historic Preservation Continuing Education Program at Rutgers-Camden. (online because of Covid)
 - Noted that a CLG requirement to attend and the fee would be covered.
 - Perhaps we might get an agenda.
- c. VHPC mailbox at Civic Center – Mr. McEvoy confirmed that there was no mail.

6. Ongoing business

- Designations – continuing ongoing status
 - Freight Shed

- a. Plans contingent on the township's purchase of the Cameco and Poekel properties for affordable housing.
 - b. Ms. Smith stated that funding is still available.
- Methodist Church Plaque placement possibility.
- White Rock
 - a. Pending the need for County permission for historic designation of a county property. Perhaps in September.
- Letter to homeowners of potential landmarks
 - Steve Neale is making brochures regarding the VHPC and the historic properties in Verona as part of the educational outreach process.

7. New Business

- a. New VHPC Member
 - With the departure of Nick Savva, we will need a new Class "C" commissioner.
 - The town council will need to vote on the new member.
- b. Fair in the Square
 - The VHPC will have a table at Fair in the Square on Saturday, December 4.
- c. Historic Districts
 - This was discussed at the Stakeholders meeting
 - Mr. McEvoy said that you must give notice to everyone in the district.
 - Mr. Hallock will review the Verona ordinance. On a national level you need 51% to not object noting that the Verona ordinance is deferential to property owners.
 - Other commissions are part of the review including the Shade Tree and Environmental Commissions,
 - Master plan: Discussion ensued on the current review of the master plan.
 - Mr. Hallock pointed out that view of experts is to present to local officials a way to have some control over random development in your town.
 - The ordinance as currently written has no compelling reason for a homeowner to buy into a designation. There are other towns with a differing point of view on their ordinances.
 - The proposed Master Plan is online for review.

- 8. **Adjournment:** Chairman Houthuysen adjourned the meeting at 8:10 pm. The next meeting is to be held on March 16, 2022 at 7:00 pm via Zoom.