

CHATHAM BOROUGH HISTORIC PRESERVATION

May 16, 2023

7:30 p.m.

Chairman James Greener called this Regular Meeting of the Chatham Borough Historic Preservation Commission to order at 7:30 p.m. This meeting was held in Room 301, Upper Level, Chatham Municipal Building. All legal notices have been posted for this meeting.

Names	Present	Absent
James Greener, Chrmn.	X	
Council Member Carolyn Dempsey		X
Council Member Frank Truilo	X	
Lynn Magrane	X	
Karen Franklin	X	
H.H. Montague	X	
Justin Strickland	X	
Brigid McMenamin	X	
Derrick Bell		X
Liz Holler, Recording Secretary	X	

Public Comment

There was none.

Historic District Ordinance work

Council Member Truilo reported that a meeting will be held with Borough Officials and HPC representatives in a month or so to discuss needed revisions to this ordinance.

Motion to Adopt Minutes

Mrs. Magrane made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2023 Minutes as submitted. Mrs. Franklin seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. The meeting minutes of April 18, 2023 were approved.

Discussion Items

Phase 1 – Renovations at the Library of the Chathams

Chrmn. Greener showed Commissioners the Library's plans to create sort of a plaza behind the building. The current wall for handicap access will be replaced with a glass wall. Council Member Truilo pointed out the new locations for the ramp and new steps. Mrs. Magrane noted that the Library will not be enlarged, however, new rooms will be created. Council Member Truilo commented that the Library had given a good presentation to the Mayor and Council on this project.

HPC Flag Award

At Chrmn. Greener's request, Mrs. McMenamin gave an update on an older home on Second Street that could be a candidate for this award. Looking at old maps, a structure is shown on a

1887 map. She reviewed the research she had done on the deeds of the home. Commissioners had some additional suggestions for her research. She wasn't sure if this structure had a basement. Chrmn. Greener suggested looking at the home's foundation walls.

Mrs. Magrane brought up a house on Front Street that may be a possible candidate for consideration.

Chrmn. Greener mentioned that his wife had another home to consider for the award. Also, the home next to Borough Hall, currently having some work done on it, could be looked at. There may be some new commercial places on Main Street that could be considered candidates in the future.

Related to this, Chrmn. Greener discussed some of the good things that happened on Main Street during Covid times. Some businesses were starting out when the pandemic hit. These businesses still worked hard, made adjustments and survived okay. Outdoor dining became popular at that time.

Chrmn. Greener showed photos of a business on Main Street, that faced the challenge of opening just before the Covid lockdown. He and many of the Commissioners felt this store was beautifully and tastefully designed.

Related to this topic, Chrmn. Greener discussed newly formed Chatham Chamber of Commerce. His firm has now joined the Chamber. Chrmn. Greener felt it was important for the HPC to remind the Chamber that the HPC sincerely supports local businesses. The HPC may sometimes give these businesses recommendations on their appearance, but they will not hurt them.

Chrmn. Greener noted that Council Member Dempsey had been asked him to re-cycle the HPC flag designs. The HPC can select a design. Council Member Truilo suggested one banner design for a private home and another design for a commercial building.

Mrs. Magrane made a motion to nominate the Main Street business that had been discussed tonight to receive the HPC Flag Award for 2023. Mrs. Franklin seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. All Commissioners present voted aye. One Commissioner abstained.

Council Member Truilo reported that he had invited John Elliott, the CBS meteorologist, to cover the Fishawack Day activities this year. Mr. Elliott is very supportive of small local businesses. Unfortunately, he is booked up elsewhere on that day.

Commissioners expressed their concern about what will happen to the current TM Ward building on South Passaic Ave. when TM Ward moves to their new location on Main Street.

Chrmn. Greener felt that some responsibility should be required of business owners to keep their structures in good condition. If the building is ignored and falls into disrepair, no one will want to rent it. A contributing building permit should be flagged for the HPC to review. Commissioners could hope Glen Turi, the Zoning Officer, will recognize and catch any construction permits being submitted for the Borough's Historic District.

Council Member Truilo noted the big improvements recently made to 11 South Passaic Avenue. A new business, Toastique, has recently opened up at that location.

Mr. Strickland suggested showing these landlords in the Historic District pictures of what their buildings looked like in the really old days. He has collected Chatham post cards from the early 1900s.

At 8:51 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Chatham Borough Historic Commission Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, 7:30 p.m., Chatham Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler
Recording Secretary