

PomptonLakes Historic Preservation Commission Minutes of January 22, 2019

Mayor Michael Serra swore in commission members Laura Jennings, Dave Rowan, Judi Pivrotto, and Keith Lockwood. Laura Jennings, in accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meeting Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-7, opened the meeting of the Pompton Lakes Historic Preservation Commission at 7:05 pm. This meeting has been advertised in the *Suburban Trends* and posted in the Municipal Building.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Paul Bowlby, Al Evangelista, Mered Frankel, Laura Jennings, Keith Lockwood, Judi Pivrotto, David Rowan, Councilman Ek Venin and Mayor Michael Serra

Absent: Erika Herz

Visitors: Steve Edgeller

A motion was made by David Rowan to approve and accept the minutes from the meeting on November 27, 2018, seconded by Laura Jennings. The motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE and PHONE CALLS:

1. **01/18/19– Grant Application Workshop** – 2019 Passaic County Open Space, Farmland, and Historic Preservation Trust Fund is holding a Grant Application Workshop this Wednesday, January 23, 2019, 6:30-8:30pm at Passaic County Dept. of Senior Services, 930 Riverview Drive, Suite 200, Totowa, NJ. Laura Jennings will be attending and asked if other members would like to attend as well. Keith Lockwood said he will attend. This workshop will be a helpful tool to find out important information needed to apply for grants.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **2020 -125 Year Anniversary of the Borough**– Much discussion was had about the 125 Year Anniversary. Laura Jennings commented that we should incorporate the 1950's video that Keith Lockwood helped to convert into a YouTube video into our 125 Year Anniversary Celebration. It would be nice to be able to identify some of the people in the video and interview them or have them be part of the celebration. Laura asked everyone to take a closer look at the video to see if they recognize anyone. Al Evangelista said that he recognized some of the police and fire department members and said that Joe Sisco could possibly recognize even more. Al will reach out to Joe for more information. It was pointed out that the video was likely filmed in 1956 based on evidence featured in the film including a fire truck that Al knows was added to the fleet after 1954, a 1956 model Buick and a calendar visible in one of the scenes indicating the date was Wednesday, February 1st.

Al Evangelista recommended that we create posters with photos of each of the business establishments from 1956 and hang them up in the corresponding current business windows to be displayed for all to see and include details of the 125 Year Celebration. BID and Chamber of Commerce member Valerie Coll could possibly help with the posters (she is a graphic designer).

In addition, the committee discussed making a modern day version of the video which would include the posters in business windows and could be filmed by local students as a way to excite and engage the younger generation in Pompton's History. Names mentioned were Peter Puleio and Duncan Marra. Cristiane Jennings offered to reach out to Peter and report back with information.

Keith Lockwood mentioned that if we could get over 1000 subscribers to the YouTube video, it would help make some money. Maybe we can post it on the Pompton Lakes Borough Facebook page and ask viewers to subscribe. Mayor Mike Serra advised that the BID will be playing a loop of the video main street location and suggested that Pompton Lakes BID could be a source of funding for our 125 Year Anniversary plans.

Keith Lockwood has burned some copies of the DVD and also offered to take screen shots of the store fronts to be included with the posters.

2. **Historical Society** – Laura reviewed the growing list of interested people in becoming involved with our organization and hopes that they will want to get involved more once we become an official historical society. Steve Edgeller offered to help us through the process of becoming a corporation and then applying for 501c3 status. He stated that borough attorney Joe Ragno was very helpful in getting The Friends of the Library their corporation and 501c3 status.
3. **Sign locations - Artistic Weaving** - Al Evangelista reached out to principal officer of Artistic Weaving in Connecticut. Paperwork was received, but photograph of marker was not. Al forwarded the photo and feels that the property owners will approve the placement of the sign soon. The sign would be placed between Starbucks and the river. A small ceremony will be planned.
4. **Commission Email Address** -The new email address for the Historic Commission is historic@pomptonlakes-nj.gov. Ek Venin will forward details to Laura Jennings. In addition, the Pompton Lakes Borough has its official Facebook page that will be updated and monitored regularly. If the historical commission would like to have something posted, please forward to our liaison, Ek Venin, who will get information to the Facebook administrator.
5. **Historical Logo** – Laura commented that an official logo is not necessary. We would use the borough logo or just plain red or white tablecloths or tent.
6. **Schuyler House** – Mayor Mike Serra gave an update that the Schuyler house is now for sale and has been reduced to \$173,000. However, the town will not be able to buy it, but would love to see it become a historical site and has suggested making it home to the Passaic County Boxing Museum, which was originally proposed to be housed in Paterson but never came to fruition. The Commission will research the opportunity and make recommendations to the town for grant funding. Al will reach out to Glen Corbett, who sits on the board of Passaic County Historic Society, and see what he might be able to suggest we do in respect to working with Passaic County.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **1950's Video**– See 125 Year Anniversary details above.
2. **Historic Commission Email List** – Laura Jennings commented that the growing list of interested people in becoming involved or finding out more about the historic commission/society has grown to about 45 people. Hoping that it will continue to grow and that interested parties become involved with the planning of our 125 Year Anniversary celebration as well.
3. **Friends of the Library (Cecil B DeMille)**– Steve Edgeller presented information about Friends of the Library plans to commemorate Cecil B. DeMille with a grant awarded them of \$2500. Venues have been researched and the event could possibly be hosted at Christ Church, HS Auditorium or Studio 237. There will be three showings. Steve is looking for help from local clubs such as ours. Mered advised that he has documents on the history of Christ Church where the DeMille family worshipped. Judi Pivrotto commented that the Women’s Club has artifacts of Cecil B. DeMille that Nancy Schwartz would be able to provide access to. And Steve said that the librarian also has clippings of Cecil B. DeMille available at the library. We will collect information and forward it to The Friends of the Library group.
4. **Thank you Mered Frankel**– Thank you to Mered Frankel for his service on the historic commission. Mered commented that it was fun and that he has enjoyed his time on the board. He plans to attend meetings when he can before he moves out of town. As former chair, Mered reviewed details of what is to be expected of the historic commission in the coming year, including mail pick up, online reporting coming up in April, calendar dates for newspaper and borough calendar, historic commission borough calendar page due in March, annual report, key to storage facility and that there is one vacancy to be filled on the board.

Next meeting is February 26, 2019– at the Pompton Lakes Civic Center, 25 Lenox Avenue, Pompton Lakes, NJ. Please call Laura Jennings at (201) 953-9327 or email jennings.lauraf@gmail.com if you cannot attend.

Having no further business to discuss a motion was made at 8:18 PM to adjourn by Paul Bowlby and seconded by Dave Rowan.

Respectfully submitted, Cristiane Jennings