



MINUTES
BOROUGH OF EMERSON
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
COMMITTEE

June 5, 2017
7:00 P.M.

Borough Hall-Council Chambers
Emerson, NJ 07630



- I. Jill McGuire called the **Special** meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and identified the emergency exits and requested all cell phones ringtones be turned off.

Jill McGuire asked Emerson Resident Dwight de Stefan to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Roll Call

Linda Flynn called the Roll of the Historic Preservation Committee.

Present: Jill McGuire, Phil Mazzo, Tony Basile, Frances Varoli, Ann McElwain, Marie Castrovillari and Linda Flynn

Absent: Vincent Benanti

III. EXCUSED ABSENCE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE MEMBER

■ **Motion** to excuse the absence of Vince Benanti from the Regular Meeting of May 15, 2017 was **moved** by Ann McElwain, **seconded** by Phil Mazzo and carried unanimously.

- Jill McGuire will follow up with Vincent Benanti's regarding his absences from the last several meetings.

IV. PROCLAMATIONS & CITATIONS

- Jill McGuire announced that there were no proclamations or citations.

V. APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS

- As previously discussed, former Emerson Mayor, Owen Cassidy, will be appointed alternate committee member at the next Mayor & Council Meeting.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- We have no minutes to approve at this meeting. We will approve the minutes of today's meeting and the meeting which took place on May 15, 2017 at our next regularly scheduled meeting which will be on June 19, 2017.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NOTE: There was a brief discussion related to the Social Media Policy which was given out at the last meeting. Some Committee members feel the policy does not apply to them and do not plan to sign it. Jill McGuire explained that the policy is given out to all commission, committee and some borough employees. She will follow up on the Committee members concerns with the Borough Administrator and report back to the Committee at the next meeting.

Historic Preservation Committee participation in the Summer Kick Off on June 17, 2017.

- Gallery Photos/Photo Cutouts
The Cutouts have been ordered. The male figure will be Marie Castrovillari's father in his WWI army uniform and from Jill McGuire's personal Demarest photo collection the female figure will be Cora Demarest in her Red Cross Uniform. The cutouts can be used as a photo op for all town residents.

We are in the process of finalizing the Gallery Photos. Our goal was to coordinate photos to commemorate WWI as it is the centennial this year.

We will use the following categories to display the photos:

- Trains
- Street Panoramas
- Landmark Buildings from the early 1900's
- The Reservoir, showing early residents boating, fishing and swimming when it was called the lake.
- Fire & Police.

On the table we will have an album with draft cards from WWI and propaganda advertising.

- Tables Setup/Tent
Ann McElwain confirmed she spoke to the President of the Senior Center and we will be able to use their rectangular folding tables and chairs.

The tables and chairs are normally taken out of the center by the police and placed under a tree for residents to use.

The seniors are seated normally near the Library area. Jill McGuire has already requested our booth be set up adjacent to the Library at the back entrance of the senior center.

- Oral History/Questionnaires.
The theme of the questionnaires is "Call Back your Emerson Years". Frances Varoli has put together a set of questions for the town residents to participate in. We will assist any residents in writing their response or they can sit at the table and write down their responses.

Phil Mazzo reported that long time, 95 year old former Emerson resident and relative to Phil, Tony Marsico, will be attending the "Kick Off". Mr. Marsico will share his stories of growing up in Emerson as well as stories from his time of service during WWII.

- Seating Schedule
We want to make sure the booth is covered at all times. Jill McGuire stated she will be there most of the day starting at 1:30 p.m. for set up. With the exception of Frances Varoli who has a previously scheduled engagement all other members have committed to being at the "Kick Off" at 1:30pm through most of the day.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- Jill McGuire introduced guest speaker Paul Stefanowicz, a Council Member, historian and author from Tenafly, New Jersey who will speak about his experience with publishing and as a historian.

Mr. Stefanowicz spent some of his childhood years living in Emerson where he attended the Linwood School and received his First Communion at Assumption Church.

Before starting his presentation Mr. Stefanowicz gave a shout out to some members of the audience. He referred to Dwight de Stefan as a “Rock Star in Collecting Oral History” and former Emerson Mayor Owen Cassidy who he sat with on a fire truck when he was seven.

Mr. Stefanowics started his presentation by discussing a book he co-wrote about Tenafly’s historic folklore and sites, with a fellow Historic Commission Member.

He also spoke briefly about the subject of Landmarking, stating our Committee’s number 1 goal should be to get our HP Ordinance on the book so we have the means of protecting sites.

He commended the Committee on their efforts and stated “Continue what you’re doing”. Use technology for storage, Cut out articles, collect photos. Reach out to your younger residents of Emerson as well as our older residents. Keep the interest going.

IX. REPORTS

- NA

X.PUBLIC COMMENT

■ **Motion** to open the meeting to comments from the public was **moved** by Frances Varoli, **seconded** by Tony Basile and carried.

Owen Cassidy, 124 Congress Rd., stated you need your Council Liaison at your meetings. He could assist you in getting a budget for expenses. Mr. Cassidy gave the Committee a plaque.

Dwight de Stefan spoke about his family who have been a part of Emerson since the 1880’s. Offered to assist the Committee at any time.

■ **Motion** to close the meeting to public comment was **moved** by Frances Varoli, **seconded** by Ann McElwain and carried.

XI.RESOLUTION

NA

XII.ADJOURNMENT

■ **Motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m. was **moved** by Linda Flynn, **seconded** by Phil Mazzo and carried.