

Matawan Historical Sites Commission  
Thursday, July 13, 2023 at 7pm  
Matawan Municipal Complex Conference Room

Call to Order: 7:04pm

Roll Call

Members present: Kurtis Roinestad, Gail Chester, Lorraine Arnold, Janilee Yanny, Barry Orr,  
Members absent: Ray Stuetz  
Council liaison: Councilmember Steven Russell  
Recording Secretary: Amy Denholtz Lewandowski  
Public attendees: Daisy Orr, Bob Anfuso, Pete Lambusta, Cathy Zavorskas

Historic Site Marker Restoration

Pete Lambusta, Cardinal Made company representative and invited guest, described the historic site markers and the details of their repair and replacement, intending to keep the design, color, and style. Chairman Roinestad presented information about the quote from Mr. Lambusta, at \$450/sign plus sign post, and indicated it was substantially cheaper than another quote.

Ms. Chester inquired whether homeowners could buy a historic home plaque with a uniform design, similar to the centennial house markers in Keyport. This may be more appropriate for the historical society.

Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2023 Minutes – draft circulated by Mr. Orr, Acting Recording Secretary

Motion to defer approval of minutes by Chairman Roinestad; ayes by all present.

Mr. Orr noted that all meeting minutes through were April submitted to Karen Wynne, Borough Clerk.

Chairman Roinestad thanked Mr. Orr for serving as Recording Secretary and welcomed Ms. Denholtz Lewandowski to the position.

Old Business

DAR Grave markers

Members researched tombstones and circulated photos of revolutionary war soldier tombstones and noted issues with the stones, settings, and variation because of topography. Ongoing discussion with Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Mr. Orr mentioned tombstones in Holmdel have two different methods, one of which is neater. Conversation about DPW completing the work and a commission member being present to ensure proper caution and supervise tombstone preservation. Discussed a landscaping company quote would add a significant cost compared to DPW or the commission. Suggested a ceremony with DAR or Veterans Affairs could elevate this.

Redevelopment/Main Street

Redevelopment is approved for 110 Main Street/Atlantic Glass and 114/116 Main Street, which incorporated commission suggestions such as awnings, cornices, and red brick instead of stucco, a significant incorporation since the first rendering originally didn't have anything

besides cornices. Developer later stated that he should've contacted the Historic Sites Commission earlier to save money and come up with a better design. Chairman Roinestad noted that this particular project was a very good compromise, incorporating residential and five new store fronts to keep that retail aspect of downtown Matawan but be cost effective with residential units.

#### Interpretive Sign at Burrowes Mansion

Discussion about interpretive sign for Burrowes Mansion. Mr. Orr noted receipt of a check for a grant from the New Jersey Society of the Cincinnati. The interpretive sign text and artwork are complete, the map is ready, and it's nearly ready to send to the sign company. It'll be reviewed before manufacturing but awaiting to see proof of sign beforehand after graphic designer prepares. Discussed timeline for layout and manufacture, with expectation of receipt at the end of September or into October.

Discussion about whether a permit must be filed to install the sign. The most recent sign had a permit filed. Ms. Zavorskas indicated this was most likely related to Borough Code due to the height and width of the sign, which was higher than the new one is intended to be installed. "Welcome to Historic Matawan" signs from 2017 were likely installed without a permit. The new Sign would be installed in the same place as a sign that existed 30 years ago, which was hit in a car accident and never reinstalled (but appears to be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the garage).

#### 250<sup>th</sup> Revolutionary War Anniversary

NJ state grant available for relevant state organizations pertaining to the American revolution and the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary two years from now, with emphasis on interpretative signs and connectivity, such as with a QR code. Commission, Historical Society, and Borough of Matawan eligible to apply. It's a matching grant, so need to be mindful of partnership funding availability. August 9<sup>th</sup> initial deadline.

Ms. Zavorskas noted the importance of ensuring accurate information between the commission and Historical Society since there was a previous determination by Revolution NJ/Crossroads of the American Revolution that the mansion had little to no interpretive information regarding the American revolution and was deemed ineligible for certain State funding for visitor sites; they may be willing to come review the site again but there is a requirement that the site be open once a week to be very visible to the public. Chairman Roinestad asked whether it would need to be open for tours or visitors in general, to which Ms. Zavorskas responded that there needs to be weekly hours, not twice a month. Chairman Roinestad posited that if it's open twice per month already and the Historical Society meets there once a month, then it only needs to be open one more day each month. Ms. Zavorskas noted it's previously been closed January to February and July to August but would need to be open once per week all 12 months of the year. Chairman Roinestad reiterated previous discussions about interns looking for community service credit. Ms. Zavorskas pointed out the work and effort to connect with universities, vetting interns and supervising them.

Ms. Zavorskas asked for help writing and re-approaching them. She wishes to correct and factually update information and eliminate the inaccuracies and lore that have been perpetuated and repeated without checking for accuracy. Mr. Roinestad noted important and relevant omissions, such as the Minisink Trail.

Discussion/Public Comment

Bob Anfuso, Matawan resident – Asked about the status of the Wyckoff dock as a historic site and access thereto. Mr. Anfuso painted the shark mural, which has now become a tourist attraction with hundreds of visitors and millions of YouTube views; his intent was to connect people to history. Discussion about the dock being private property but publicly accessible, even though access to the creek itself isn't simple. Two dams will be completed soon, which will impact the area and the visibility of the mural. Increased tourism and economic impact, such as from kayak tours, could benefit Matawan more. Local breweries and other events commemorate the first 100 years since the shark attacks. Some frowned upon Shark Fest and similar events because of the concern about capitalizing on a terrible tragedy; however, others commemorated the events and celebrated Stanley Fisher. Shark themed events are among the most popular historic activities held in Matawan. Chairman Roinestad suggested Mr. Anfuso attend a council meeting and provide background information, and invited him to present to the Historical Society in the future.

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, August 10, 2023 at 7pm

Motion to change meeting date from August 10<sup>th</sup> to August 17<sup>th</sup>

Main Motion: Orr                      2<sup>nd</sup>: Yann                      Ayes: all present                      Nays: none

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Chester      2<sup>nd</sup>: Roinestad                      Ayes: all present                      Nays: none

Adjourned: 8:28pm