

Matawan Historical Sites Commission
Thursday, July 11, 2024 at 7pm
Matawan Municipal Community Center Council Chambers

Call to Order: 7:14pm

Roll Call

Members present:	Barry Orr, Gail Chester, Janilee Yanny
Members absent:	Kurtis Roinestad, Lorraine Arnold, Steven Russell
Recording Secretary:	Amy Denholtz Lewandowski
Public Members:	Jason Peist, Daisy Orr, Suzanne Reynolds, Anissa Esposito, Guy Buckel

Without a quorum, the meeting was discussion only, with no action taken.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

June 20, 2024 Meeting Minutes

The minutes were not considered at this meeting.

Chairman's Report

None.

Matawan Historic Sites: Property Reports

Burrowes Mansion

No update.

Mt. Pleasant cemetery

Vice Chair Orr restated recent updates, including the completion of a survey and the cleanup of garbage from the neighboring (encroaching) property owner. Vice Chair Orr visited the cemetery today and observed that a tree limb had broken off and split a headstone in half. He stated that perhaps the company that repaired the Freneau monument could take care of this and will ask Chairman Roinestad to get a quote for the headstone repair and tree removal. Mr. Orr was unable to find iron stakes boundary markers.

Mr. Peist offered to review the survey to see if it indicated that the markers were buried.

Interpretive sign –

There is no update about using Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) to mark the old church footprint for the interpretative sign.

Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) involvement in marking graves –

Samuel Forman issues are unresolved (militia typo and identifying whether it's the merchant or the Colonel from Freehold).

Freneau Grave

Vice Chair Orr stated that the monument cleaning was completed and paid, and it looks nice.

St. James Zion Church

No report.

Downtown Preservation District

No report.

Old Business

Vacant Position

No update.

Revised Ordinance

No update.

New Business

Mr. Peist noted that work is being done on the Ryer house. Mr. Buckel provided additional information and insight into the work being completed, as he helped with some of the work.

Discussion ensued about historic buildings and handicap accessibility, and some of the differences in requirements for commercial and residential buildings. Mr. Peist shared his professional insights.

Public Comment

Mr. Buckel asked about Burrowes Mansion and whether there is any update on the foundation. Mr. Orr replied that it was considered but funding for electrical upgrades was prioritized as it poses a more significant risk.

Discussion continued about the requirements for the historic (Ryer?) home, and associated variances, accessible parking space(s) and pathway. Questions included access and egress for the basement units, fire windows, and emergency vehicles and the well on the property.

The Recording Secretary noted, for the record, that the position is considered a Borough employee so the per-meeting pay can only be increased by approval of a resolution by the Governing Body, which was approved in June and took effect going forward but did not apply for previous meetings, despite this commission's approval in March.

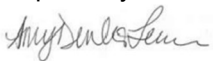
The Recording Secretary stated that she'll be in Trenton later in July and could visit the State Archives and request to see maps of Matawan, including anything illustrating the Mount Pleasant Cemetery. Specific map requests should be emailed to her.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 8, 2024 at 7pm.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Chester 2nd: Yanny Ayes: all present Nays: none
Adjourned: 7:56 PM

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Denholtz Lewandowski, RMC
Recording Secretary