

Minutes for July 9, 2008 Historic Commission Meeting

In Attendance: Diane Knispel, Chris Greimel, Kim Arestad, Rich Graham

Minutes from last month's meeting were reviewed and approved.

The Commission decided to come up with an initial list of three homes that are historic in town. Others could be added later when the surveying of the homes is complete. In this way, the local designation list would be started. Then the Committee could propose this as a resolution at the Land Use Committee on July 18th, and the Council Meeting on July 24th. The members present reviewed the houses that were part of the Bergen County Cultural and Historic Affairs Survey of Historic Homes in Allendale that was done in the 1980's. After much discussion, three homes were determined to be the initial ones designated to the list, and they were:

1. The Van Houten House, at 205 West Allendale Avenue, because it is on the National Register of Historic Places already. It is a home located near the ballpark and is one of Allendale's earliest homes.
2. The Reading House, at 509 Franklin Turnpike, because it is one of our earliest homes, and has not changed much on the outside over the years.
3. The John Fell House, at 475 Franklin Turnpike, because it is also one of our most historic homes because of who lived there. John Fell was a figure in local, state, and national history.

The Committee decided to vote on the three homes. Kim called for a motion to accept all three homes as part of the local designation list, and Chris seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the three homes. (Tom Robbins, who is Chair of the Commission, was asked his vote later, and voted "yes.") Therefore, the voting was unanimous to accept all three as part of the local designation list. Kim and Diane will gather a packet together for the Land Use Committee and Town Council on the history of the three homes.

The Committee decided to meet again on Wednesday night, July 16th, at 7PM to continue to walk around town to evaluate the homes. Diane reported that the committee has three streets left: Ivers Road, West Crescent Ave., and Brookside Ave. The Committee will meet at Calvary Church on West Crescent Ave and do that street and Ivers.

The other item on the agenda was to discuss the idea of finding two alternate members who can fill in when the others need to be out of town. Chris and Tom will look into finding other people to fill in the two alternate spots. It will then be brought to the Mayor and Town Council.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Knispel