

Minutes for 01/06/2022 CRCA Meeting

Via Zoom 7:30pm

Welcome by Celeste Hardester, President, Central Roxborough Civic Association

Election of board members for 2022

President - John Carpenter
Vice President - Mike Katra
Treasurer - Erin Bishop
Board Chair - Celeste Hardester
Recording Secretary - Molly Lawton
Corresponding Secretary - MaryAnn DiGiacomo

Updates from:

Pam DeLissio - State representative

- Redistricting update
 - Reapportionment committee voted on preliminary maps on 12/16/2021
 - There is a 30 day period for public comment that ends January 18th 2022
 - Pam DeLissio explained the mapping process where a final map will be released upto 30 days after the January 18th deadline, then for 30 days after that it will be open to legal challenges.
 - On Tuesday January 11th there is a town hall meeting to go over where they're at in the redistricting process and to encourage constituents to take a look at and weigh in for comments.
 - The Commission is holding hearings January 6th and 7th and again on January 14th and 15th.
- Pam DeLissio's office moved from its original location to **4001 Main Street** on January 5th 2022
- You can contact Pam DeLissio at:
RepDeLissio@pahouse.net
215-482-8726

Josh Cohen - Chief of staff Curtis Jones Office

- **Follow up on redistricting**
 - There is redistricting currently happening at the city level in addition to State and Federal levels.
 - Council creates their own maps based on current population of the city
 - 4th district is least populated of the 10 districts so will have to absorb population numbers from another district which will more than likely be from west or north philadelphia
 - The city has until sometime in February to review the maps.
 - There will be a hearing some time soon for people's voices to be heard
- **Temporary moratorium on demolition update**
 - Moratorium of demolition for 465 properties, they can not be demolished for 1 year OR until historic designation is reached.
 - Temporary moratorium on demolition roughly encompasses the area bordered by Henry Avenue, Silverwood Street, Roxborough Avenue and Fountain Street.

- Specific addresses of properties to be designated historic are still being determined.
- Snow removal will start on main streets and then side streets, if your block is not plowed by midday contact Josh Cohen at Joshua.cohen@phila.gov
- There will be NO recycling for the week of January 5th due to large scale COVID infections of sanitation workers.

Variance Review Presentation

5817 Henry Ave - Henry Clinton - Lawyer; John Kane - Owner; Francis Cuthbertson - Architect

- ZBA hearing is February 16th 2022 at 2:00 pm
- Variance presented to allow them to turn the old Doctor's office on the first floor into a two bedroom apartment.
- Prior zoning for the doctor's office has expired
- This is changing use from commercial to residential.
- Neighbors voiced concern about the condition of the retaining wall owned by the residents of Jamestown St and the ownership of the shared driveway which might only be deeded to the residents of Rector St
- Henry Clinton and John Kane agreed to consult their deed to see if they are also included as partial owners of the driveway and to meet with neighbors.
- Two Straw Polls were taken;
 - Straw Poll #1 Was NOT in favor of the exemption WITHOUT a resolution with neighbors about the shared driveway and wall, 12 votes to oppose out of 23 voters at the time of the poll, not everyone voted.
 - Straw poll #2 Was in favor of the exemption IF there was a resolution with neighbors about the shared driveway and wall, 14 votes to support out of 26 voters at the time of the poll, not everyone voted.

460 Lyceum ave - Alan Nochumson - Lawyer; Laura Feldman - Client; Patrick Ferris - General Contractor

- ZBA hearing is February 23rd 2022 at 2PM
- Variance presented to show the old Doctor's office on the first floor converted into a two bedroom apartment.
- There was a fire in the building and the building is under renovation/restoration.
- This is changing use from commercial to residential.
- Owner is planning to remove the door over the front porch and has plans to reinstall the original fence after renovation.
- Rear entrance to the second floor apartment was discussed and the owner stated it had always been this way.
- Owner asked if she considered keeping commercial use to which the owner responded that she has not had any interest from a commercial tenant.
- Community members expressed preference for the building to be kept as a single family home instead of split into two units.

- Straw poll was NOT in favor of the exemption, 20 votes to oppose out of 25 voters at the time of the poll. Not everyone voted.

Update on Development

4112 Pechin St - ZBA scheduled for 2/15/2022 9:30AM

Other Discussions

Roxborough Historic District Update

- Research on the final houses is still taking place.
- Refining the list of homes with the historic commission staff.
- There will be outreach literature going out to residents
- There will be info listed on the CRCA website at www.CRCA.us
- List of included homes will be available prior to the January 26th meeting
- **A detailed public meeting about this would be on January 26th and another one will be held on February 23rd.**

Community Announcements

Two On Tuesdays - Group of volunteers from across the community who take care of public spaces not maintained by the City.. Cutting back foliage, weeding, planting trees and flowers, removing trash, etc; they go out for pizza and beer afterwards. It's a good way to get to know people in your community.

- Email johnmcarpenter@msn.com if you would like to get involved.
- John Carpenter is also involved with the Roxborough Manayunk Conservancy, a group that is focused on preserving the open space in Roxborough and Manayunk.

Meeting conclusion

- Throughout the meeting, 42 people were in attendance, including presenters. People were able to raise their hands to speak, or use the Chat function.
- Meeting was administered by multiple board members.