

TOWNSHIP OF VERNON

ORDINANCE #24-07

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE XVI OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON

WHEREAS, ordinance #21-04 abolished the Historic Preservation Commission, and

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Vernon ("Township") has determined that it is in the best interests of the Township to reinstate the Historic Preservation Commission.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon that the code of the Township of Vernon is hereby amended as follows:

SECTION 1

§ 5-13 Boards, bodies, commissions and committees.

A. The following boards and bodies of the Township are hereby continued:

- (1) Land Use Board as set forth in Section 330-6.
- (2) Environmental Commission;
- (3) Open Space Board
[reserved];
- (4) Historic Preservation Commission (~~Reserved~~);
- (5) Recreation Committee;
- (6) Municipal Alliance Committee; and
- (7) Senior Citizen Committee.

SECTION 2

§ 5-94. Historic Preservation Commission.

- A. There is hereby created in and for the Township of Vernon a commission to be known as the "Historic Preservation Commission." ~~The Township of Vernon Historic Preservation Commission in hereby abolished.~~

Strikeouts are deletions. Underlines are added material.

B. The Historic Preservation Commission shall consist of seven members and two alternates who shall serve without compensation except that the Commission members shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the performance of official business approved in advance by the Township Council.

C. Membership.

(1) The Commission positions shall be filled by persons who are interested in and qualified to contribute to the preservation of historic buildings, structures, sites and objects. The Commission shall comprise the following categories:

(a) Class A: persons who are knowledgeable in building design and construction or in architectural history.

(b) Class B: persons who are knowledgeable or have demonstrated an interest in local history.

(c) Class C: persons who are residents of the Township and who hold no other municipal office, position or employment, except for membership on the Planning Board or Zoning Board of Adjustment.

(2) There shall be at least one member each from Class A and Class B; three members may reside outside the Township. Both alternates shall meet the qualifications of Class C members.

D. Commission members shall be appointed by the Mayor and shall serve for four-year terms except that, of the first members appointed, two members shall serve for one year, two members shall serve for two years and the three other members shall serve for three years. The alternate members shall initially and thereafter serve two-year terms. All members may, at the expiration of their terms, be eligible for appointment to four-year terms. If a Commission member is also a member of the Land Use Board, the term of membership of such Commission member shall be the term of membership on the Planning Board or Zoning Board of Adjustment, as the case may be. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner in which the previous incumbent was appointed, and such vacancy appointment shall be only for the balance of the unexpired term.

E. The Commission shall adopt internal rules and procedures for the transaction of its business subject to the following:

(1) The Commission shall elect from its members a Chairman and Vice Chairman.

(2) A quorum for the transaction of all business shall be four members.

- (3) All Commission minutes and records shall be public records and all Commission meetings shall comply with the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.
 - (4) The Commission shall employ, designate or elect a Secretary who need not be a member of the Commission. The Secretary shall keep minutes and records of all meetings and proceedings, including voting records, attendance, resolutions, findings, determinations and decisions. All such materials shall be made of public record.
 - (5) Commission meetings shall be scheduled at least once every month, or as often as required to fulfill its obligations to advise the Land Use Board, Zoning Board of Adjustment or governing body.
 - (6) No Commission member shall be permitted to act on any matter in which he or she has directly or indirectly any personal or financial interest.
- F. A member of the governing body shall be designated each year as a liaison with the Historic Preservation Commission.

§5-95. Duties.

The Historic Preservation Commission shall have the responsibility to:

- A. Prepare a survey of historic sites of the municipality pursuant to criteria identified in the survey report;
- B. Make recommendations to the Land Use Board on the historic preservation plan element of the Master Plan and on the implications for preservation of historic sites of any other Master Plan elements;
- C. Advise the Land Use Board on the inclusion of historic sites in the recommended capital improvement program;
- D. Advise the Land Use Board on applications for development pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:550-110;
- E. Provide written reports pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:550-111 and § 330-149 of this article on the application of the Zoning Ordinance provisions concerning historic preservation; and
- F. Carry out such other advisory, educational and informational functions as will promote historic preservation in the Township, including but not limited to the following:
 - (1) To review historical survey material and, if necessary, to update such material at least once every year to incorporate any newly required historical documentation and to reflect changes to the resource's integrity or condition.
 - (2) To recommend sites to be designated as historic landmarks in accordance with the procedures established in this article.

- (3) To conduct research on and, if necessary, to nominate any additional significant resources to the State and National Register of Historic Places. If the Township becomes certified under the state's Certified Local Government (CLG) Program, the Commission shall, in accordance with the state's CLG guidelines, nominate, review and comment on all state and national registered nominations for historic resources with the Township of Vernon.
- (4) To assist other public bodies in aiding the public in understanding historic resource significance and methods of preservation.
- (5) To advise the governing body on the relative merits of proposals involving public lands to restore, preserve and protect historical buildings, places and structures; to prepare long-range plans; for the purpose of securing state, federal and other grants in aid to assist in carrying out the other purposes of this article.
- (6) To secure the voluntary assistance of the public and (within the limits of the budget established by the governing body for the Historic Commission's operation) to retain consultants and experts and incur expenses to assist the Historic Preservation Commission in its work.
- (7) To cooperate with local, county, state or national historical authorities, governmental bodies or organizations to maximize their contributions to the intent and purposes of this article.
- (8) To advise and assist property owners and other persons and groups, including neighborhood organizations, who are interested in historic preservation.
- (9) Within the limits of its budget, to undertake educational programs, including the preparation of a publication aimed at stimulating interest in and sensitivity to historic preservation; and the placing of historic markers on structures.
- (10) To report at least annually to the Planning Board on the state of historic preservation in the Township and recommend measures to improve same.
- (11) To adopt and promulgate such regulations and procedures not inconsistent with this article as are necessary and proper for the effective and efficient performance of the duties herein assigned.
- (12) To perform any other lawful activities which shall be deemed necessary to further the purposes of this article.

SECTION 3

Sections 5-95, 330-141, 330-142, 330-148, 330-149, 330-150, 330-151, and 330-152 of the municipal code are hereby reinstated.

Strikeouts are deletions. Underlines are added material.

SECTION 4

§ 330-153. Establishment of historic districts; limitations on powers of Commission.

- A. The establishment of a historic district in the Township of Vernon shall be initiated and implemented in the same way as for historic landmarks.
- B. No duties or powers of the Commission shall supersede or infringe on the powers of other Township boards and committees.

SECTION 5

~~The Historic Preservation Commission shall forthwith deliver all of its books, collections, and records to the Township Clerk within 10 business days of the passage of this ordinance.~~

SECTION 6

A final copy of this ordinance shall be provided to the Land Use Board.

SECTION 7

~~Each section of this ordinance is an independent section, and the holding of any section or part thereof to be unconstitutional, void or ineffective for any cause shall not be deemed to affect the validity of constitutionality of any other sections or parts thereof.~~

SECTION 8


~~Any ordinances or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed as to their inconsistencies only.~~


SECTION 9

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately as provided by law.

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the above Ordinance was introduced and passed on first reading at the Meeting of the Township Council held on June 10, 2024, and the same came up for final passage and was adopted at the Meeting of the Township Council held on June 24, 2024 at which time all persons interested were given an opportunity to be heard. The above ordinance will be in full force and effect in the Township of Vernon according to law.


Marcy Gianattasio, Clerk
Township of Vernon


Anthony Rossi, Mayor

Township of Vernon

INTRODUCED: June 10, 2024

NAME	M	S	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Buccieri, N.						X
DeBenedetto, J.	X		X			
Higgins, W.		X	X			
Sparta, B.			X			
Rizzuto, P.			X			

ADOPTED: June 24, 2024

NAME	M	S	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Buccieri, N.	X		X			
DeBenedetto, J.			X			
Higgins, W.			X			
Sparta, B.		X	X			
Rizzuto, P.			X			