



SPRINGFIELD PRESERVATION TRUST NEWSLETTER

Winter 2017

In This Issue

Community Preservation Act
Demolition Delay
Preservation Awards
Annual Meeting
Spring House Tour
Winter Fundraiser
Cemetery Tour

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*image above is
270 Maple Street
Annual Meeting Location*

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B & B Antiques
Estates and Antiques
Bought and Sold

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT PASSES!!!!

C P A passed in Springfield with 62% of those who voted on Question #5. It passed in every ward, in every neighborhood, in 63 of the city's 64 precincts.



It is expected that City Council will enact an ordinance establishing the

Community Preservation Committee to administer the program in 2017. The CPC must be composed of members from the Historical Commission, Conservation Commission, Park Commission, Housing Authority, and Planning Board and may have up to four others members if City Council allows. We are hopeful that one member of the Committee will be nominated from SPT to give a stronger voice to preservation issues.

The first task of the CPC will be to assess the needs in the three eligible categories of Historic Resources, Open/Recreation Space, and Housing.

The CPA surcharge of 1.5% will appear on tax bills in July, 2017 and is expected to raise approximately one million dollars annually before State funds are contributed. Perhaps as early as late 2017 the CPC will start accepting project applications from city departments, nonprofits, and community groups. A minimum of 10% of funds must be annually allocated each for each of the three eligible categories. All C P A allocations recommended by the CPC need approval by City Council.

DEMOLITION DELAY AMENDMENT

The Ordinance for Preservation of Historically Significant Buildings (aka Demolition Delay) is being amended. The Ordinance, which took effect in January of 2014, imposes a 9-month delay once a demolition permit is sought for any building 100 years old or older. As part of a compromise to gain passage, exempted were tax-foreclosed residents, buildings for which the Law Department obtained a court-order for demolition, and buildings which the Building Commissioner determined to be of imminent public safety.

Last April, City Council passed a resolution requesting Mayor Sarno to have a moratorium on demolition of deteriorated historic buildings and to seek rehabilitation incentives. The

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Brian Connors

Paul Phaneuf

David & Jacqueline
Pleet

Lou & Lynn Pronovost

William & Caroline
Toner

Thomas A. Valentine

Mayor chose, instead, to proceed with demolition of historic buildings on Bowdoin Street, Yale Street, and Liberty Street.

Councilors Michael Fenton and Bud Williams recently sponsored an ordinance amendment which would remove the exemption from demolition delay for tax-foreclosed residences and would require that such properties be offered for rehabilitation by Request for Proposals with incentives equal to or greater than the cost of demolition. The amendment has passed in January and was sent to the Mayor.

Please thank your councilors for this effort. It makes no sense that the City currently finds money for demolition but does not first offer equal incentives for rehabilitation.

SPT SEEKS 2017 PRESERVATION AWARDS NOMINATIONS

The Springfield Preservation Trust is currently accepting nominations for the 2017 Springfield Preservation Awards. Every year SPT honors the people and organizations that are helping to restore and preserve Springfield's historic places.



Nominations can be made for any historic property in Springfield which has been sensitively restored in the last year. Historic structures are those structures that are 50 years old or old but do not need to be in an historic district, have a plaque or otherwise been recognized as historic.

Nominations are due by Friday, February 24th 2017. For a list of last year's awardees and to learn more about submitting a nomination [click here](#).

SPT ANNUAL MEETING

SPT will hold its Annual Meeting at 1PM on **Sunday, February 26, 2017 at 270 Maple Street**. Annual elections will be held for the Board of Directors, the 2017 Most Endangered Properties will be announced, and a review of the past year will be presented. The event is free and open to SPT Members.

Known as "The Pines", 270 Maple Street was built in 1879 for Frederick Harris Jr. and his wife Emily Osborne. To learn more about this historic house [click here](#).

Beome a Supporter

**Interested in
being listed as a
Supporter in the SPT
Quarterly
Newsletter?**

**Become a
member at the
Greek Revival
level or higher
to be listed.**

[Click Here
to become a
SPT Member](#)

Contractor's List

If you know a skilled
craftsman that you
would recommend,
please let us know.

Please include:

- ~Name of Contractor
- ~Category of work
- ~Phone/Email/website

Send information to
jimboone@hotmail.com

SPT Board Meetings

SPT members are
welcome to attend

when
First Wednesday
of each month
6PM

where
Mason Wright
Retirement Center
74 Walnut Street

Credits

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contributors:**
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SPRING HOUSE TOUR

Save the afternoon of June 11 for a tour along Maple Street. SPT will celebrate the 40th anniversary of three local historic districts: Lower Maple, Ridgewood, and Maple Hill. Seven stops have already been committed. More information will come in the spring newsletter.

WINTER FUNDRAISER

2017 marks the 40th anniversary of the creation of three Springfield local historic districts: Maple Hill, Lower Maple, and Ridgewood. SPT will focus on the anniversary by holding our annual events in the historic districts starting with the Winter Fundraiser. A crowd of 50 gathered at the beautiful home of William Duquette at 91 Mulberry Street on January 29th.



The Tudor Revival house was built around 1907 for attorney Henry Whitman. Its second owner was J. Frank Drake, who was secretary of the Phelps Publishing Company. In 1918, he took a job with Gulf Oil in Pittsburgh and eventually became its resident. In more recent years, the house had been carved into apartments, which have been removed to return the home to its former glory.

Thanks to all who attended and who support the fine work of the Trust, your ongoing generosity is appreciated and valued.

"VOICES FROM THE GRAVE" CEMETERY TOUR

The Trust hosted its fourth annual tour of Oak Grove Cemetery on Sunday, October 23. Docent-led groups visited the graves of several "residents," where costumed interpreters spoke about that person. Featured were inventor Ralph Goddard (Don Courtemanche), architect G. Wood Taylor (Jim Boone), scientist Rachel Fuller Brown (Kathleen Pellegrino), developers Albert and Mary Ball (Jesse Lederman and Emila Ponikiewski), and philanthropists Orick and Mary Greenleaf (Mike and Liz Stevens).



Springfield Preservation Trust
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