

**HISTORIC COMMISSION
MINUTES**

March 23, 2011

8:16 p.m.

<u>ATTENDANCE:</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
<u>Phyllis Angelo</u>	X	
<u>Mary Donohue</u>	X	
<u>Judi Sussman</u>		X
<u>Yoshi Aono</u>	X	
<u>Sara Theresa Bartelloni</u>	X	
<u>Steve Cordts</u>		X
<u>Sandy Moscaritolo</u>		X

PHYLLIS ANGELO: I received e-mail from Steve Cordts, who indicated he will be moving out of town. He has the crucial position on the Commission as the expert in building construction, which would need to be replaced. I advised him to write a formal letter to the Mayor and Council.

MARY DONOHUE: I move the Minutes from last meeting be approved.

YOSHI AONO: Second.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: We finished the historical display, but it needs to be put together. We will put it in the train station. Sara will put that together.

SARA BARTELLONI: I was thinking about matting the display, at it looks more formal.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: It needs to be thin, as there is an indentation we measured. Possible beige colored paper for the background. Yoshi will make a larger copy of the children singing for the display. The pocket park on Bogert Road was put on hold, until they find out the amount of carcinogens are in the soil. Also, we discussed the American Legion, which is also being put on hold. The Council is not accepting the Grant.

MARY DONOHUE: The Council is being very prudent, as there is no money to spend on it at this time.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: I mentioned before, once you receive money from the County, you have to indicate you will keep the building for 10 to 15 years for a particular type of

function. It was the same with the Cultural Center; however we are past the 15 years now. It appeared to be very limited to use only for a Senior Center.

MARY DONOHUE: I believe Teaneck called their building the Recreation Center, which would allow any activity in town.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: If it is too restrictive, and if you are going to save the building, you would like many groups to use the building. I will give Sara the current photographs that Yoshi took of the historical houses, along with the photographs we already had on a CD, in order to combine the photographs with the information regarding the houses. I would like to give an overview of what our Commission does to the new members. The Ordinance states our criteria for historic designation is:

- (1) That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the Borough of River Edge by reflecting or exemplifying the broad cultural, political, economic or social history of the nation, state or community; or
- (2) That are associated with historic personages important in national, state or local history; or
- (3) That is the site of an historic event which had a significant effect on the development of the nation, state or community; or
- (4) That embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction; that represent the work of a master; that possess high artistic values; or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- (5) That are otherwise of particular historic significance to the Borough of River Edge by reflecting or exemplifying the broad cultural, political, economic or social history of the nation, state, region or community.

It is not necessary to have all 5 of the criteria. The next would be how to go about designating a building as historic. You would need to find out the age of a building, by checking the County Records. There are also surveys and historic maps to review. If we are not sure, we can contact Kevin Wright. We have 13 sites designated right now. One is the Steuben House complex, which is all of the buildings, plus the bridge, but not the barn. Also the kiosks on Voorhees and Manning; the two cobblestone streets and the newest designation is the house on Kinderkamack Road, which was part of the Demarest property. There are several houses we want to designate. Also, want to mention that historic designation does not include the inside of a building, only if it is a museum. When we get involved in anything, it is strictly the exterior of the building.

Part of being a CLG, last year we had Andrea Tidley, head of the CLG's in Trenton, give a seminar at Borough Hall. Members of the Committee are required to go to a seminar on historic preservation once a year. The only problem, they are never held in Bergen County. I will check to see if there is anything closer, as sometimes the County Historical Preservation has seminars. Did any students indicate they would be interested in doing a video?

SARA BARTELLONI: I spoke with the TV class. It is something the students are trained to do. It is an acceptable project. I also spoke with someone involved in Scouting. Once we have an idea what we want to do, we could see what group would be interested.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: The more immediate project is getting the photographs digitized.

SARA BARTELLONI: What type of format are you thinking about?

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Right now, we have all the photographs we want to use on a disc.

SARA BARTELLONI: Do you want it is a database, or play like a movie?

PHYLLIS ANGELO: The easiest way to store and edit the information.

SARA BARTELLONI: More like a workable document. The television students can make something with photographs and with narrative.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: That would be good for the video. Right now, we need the information available to everybody. We want to use the format the County uses, which would include the condition and brief history of the building.

MARY DONOHUE: This can be done within a course of a year.

SARA BARTELLONI: As far as involving student, in spring the seniors are looking to do community service. Once you get past the first few pages, there is a form to use. If this is done as a data base, it can be uploaded to the River Edge website.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: We will hold off on the video. Kevin may be willing to give a commentary about some of the historic homes, like he did for the Centennial. It would be nice to interview some of the original residents of the town, if they are still around.

MARY DONOHUE: Put a small notice in the bulletin of the different Church's, and the Temple, indicating the Historical Committee is looking for witnesses to the history of River Edge.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Mrs. Murin, was interviewed for the Centennial video, who was a kindergarten teacher at Cherry Hill School, who I believe is still around. I am not sure if she would be up to it.

SARA BARTELLONI: If the video is still available, it could be worked into an updated story.

MARY DONOHUE: You can start with residents who came right after the War, which was the rebirth of River Edge.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: In 1948 the apartments were built, which was the earliest development in River Edge.

MARY DONOHUE: We should think of the history of our town in a generational manner.

SARA BARTELLONI: You can put specific times/dates for the witnesses into the bulletins.

MARY DONOHUE: Another aspect is the Asian population, which is 22 % in River Edge. We should also talk about our diversity.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Okay. We may need to make volumes of the video. I agree we need to discuss the diversity, but we should start with the WW II residents. I have quite a few Veterans, due to the history project that was done with the Library of Congress.

MARY DONOHUE: We should get the talent from the high school students to help.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Maybe find some more people who had the early connection and then discuss how it started as a suburb.

SARA BARTELLONI: My suggestion is to start with a few snippets of information. The students can approach it part by part. Multiple people in the community who are interested in helping can approach each idea, which would make it more achievable.

MARY DONOHUE: We need a set of questions to use for the interview.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Yes, that would be helpful. At the last meeting, it was mentioned that New Bridge Landing would be breaking ground in the spring for their information Center.

MARY DONOHUE: We hope to in May or June.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: You received the money from fundraising and memberships.

MARY DONOHUE: Fundraising, memberships and an endowment. It is going to be an interesting building. Outside will look like a barn; the inside will be state of the art.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Do you have an architects rendering to bring to the next meeting?

MARY DONOHUE: Not yet. I encourage everyone to become members. If you would like to see what it is like, on April 3rd New Bridge Landing will be holding a ceremony for the Native American New Year.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:25 p.m. Next meeting April 27, 2011.