

HISTORIC COMMISSION

MINUTES

February 22, 2012

8:11 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>Harold DeYoung</u>		X
<u>Mike Ginch</u>	X	
<u>Kevin Wright (Consultant)</u>		
<u>Councilman Porco</u>		X

Members of Audience:

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Minutes accepted as read. Has everyone seen the Train Station display?

SARA BARTELLONI: Unfortunately not, other than in my home while working on it.

YOSHI AONO: No, they close early.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: I will find out the hours. Since it is a working station, someone is in the building. Also, I had school groups come to the Cultural Center for the Art Exhibit and mentioned the Train Station display. Roosevelt School will be going to see it in the Spring. It would be a good idea if we can meet them there and discuss the history of the station. Since Yoshi takes photographs for the Commission, the Borough has provided him with an ID, so he does not get stopped while take pictures. The American Legion building was photographed by Yoshi and I mentioned to our Liaison that I would like to discuss what is happening with the building. The only information I have is what I read in the paper.

YOSHI AONO: Google Map shows a picture of the Cultural Center, which I believe we should have.

MIKE GINCH: Google Earth also has historical satellite images. If you needed something that was missing, you can go back to prior date satellite images.

SARA BARTELLONI: We can possibly locate the Hoffman Koos building before it was demolished.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Also, we discussed speaking with Eric Model about placing a story in The Patch. Once a decision is reached regarding the American Legion building, I would like to place a story about the building, along with Yoshi's photograph of the building.

SARA BARTELLONI: It might be interesting to speak with residents who were early members of the American Legion, as well.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Any other commercial strips you are working on?

YOSHI AONO: No, but come April I can start doing more.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Okay. Robin Brown, the County Preservationist, e-mailed that the town is going to be doing ADA improvements to the Borough Hall entrance and Public Safety entrance. The Borough Hall is a designated landmark. There is not a problem with replacing the glass door of the Public Safety building, however, there is a problem with replacing the door on the Borough Hall with a glass door. Robin Brown said she will work with the town and advised that Alan is going to send the plans back to the architect to be redone. We are not opposed to a metal door, as long as it has a colonial style to it. Originally, there were only funds to replace the door at the Public Safety building, but they now have enough funds to replace both doors.

Has anyone had an opportunity to look at the guidelines for historic buildings?

MIKE GINCH: I looked at Closter's on-line, which is very comprehensive.

SARA BARTELLONI: We could use Closter's as a guideline.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Only if we think we need it to be as extensive as that.

SARA BARTELLONI: There may be some areas that can be cut out.

MIKE GINCH: Maybe they would be willing to share their documents with us to use as a guideline.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: I will ask.

MIKE GINCH: A lot of Closter's information dealt with specific types of architecture.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: River Edge does not have that many types of architecture. Closter has a lot more different types than River Edge.

I reviewed my notes regarding the local historical designation letter. The past attorney advised that the letter should not be sent until we have the hearing date, otherwise in essence you are having 2 hearings. The designation letter was read into the record that was sent to Kevin Wright regarding 56 Spring Valley. Designating this property will not be difficult. The Deed goes back to 1700's. It is already on the National and State Registries. First I need to check when the Borough attorney is available to come to a meeting.

MIKE GINCH: The Smith McGill House that is in here, is that up for sale?

PHYLLIS ANGELO: It was up for sale, but the sign is down. I believe it is historical, however Kevin Wright said that house is too altered. There is a house for sale that is very historical on Kinderkamack Road, located opposite the strip mall south of the CVS store. I believe it is the Ralph Voorhis House. That house is not designated, but you can tell from the porch and windows it is historical.

MIKE GINCH: Since it is up for sale, maybe we can ask the owners if we could take some pictures.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: We could ask. I believe Yoshi took pictures of the outside. Also, I have plenty of historical background on the Blair House. I will talk to the attorney and see how much time we would have to notify the homeowners regarding designating their homes. The earliest hearing date would be April.

MIKE GINCH: When someone intends to sell their home, they want to get as much as they can for it. Designating it may diminish the value.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: It depends on where. If it was not in a historic district, it would not diminish the value. Since the house is by itself, I am not sure.

MIKE GINCH: I know it went for higher than the asking price 10 years ago.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: The designation is somewhat of a restriction on the homeowner. The State should be more pro-active about giving tax deductions, so people would want their homes historically designated.

The next item to discuss is the disc for the website.

SARA BARTELLONI: I went to the Borough and spoke with Denise regarding attaching our meetings to the Borough's You Tube channel. Denise gave me a Username and Password to use. You Tube not only attaches documents and links, it can also attach images and much more. We can start by uploading some photographs of the buildings we already have. Also, I want to take the VCR tape to have it transferred to a DVD,

which we can upload on a Historic Commission You Tube channel. The four tapes we currently have is a great starting point. It would be exciting to share this with the Council.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: What about the 2000 survey.

SARA BARTELLONI: I started reviewing the survey and putting it into a program. I have a print out example of what it would look like. I have created a form, which allows you to create the page as a PDF. It works really well. The last survey I have is dated 2000. I am not sure if these houses are still there.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: We eliminated the houses that were not there anymore, which is why we need to do the survey update.

SARA BARTELLONI: Do we have the authority to update the list?

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Yes. The point of doing the photographic study over was due to the changes in the Borough. The houses that were severely altered will be taken out of the survey.

SARA BARTELLONI: I have not gotten to the pictures yet. I will need help putting all this information together.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: We can all help with that.

Andrea Tidley, the CLG, advised that there are going to be Grants that are not matching. We would have a better chance of getting a Grant if we combine our request with another town. The problem is that New Milford is no longer a CLG and the closest one is Teaneck, however Teaneck is a large town and it may not work. Oradell is in the process of having a Historic Commission, but forming a CLG is another application. There are not that many CLG towns in the area.

MIKE GINCH: What Grants would you combine with other towns?

PHYLLIS ANGELO: A Grant to pay Kevin Wright, or some other historical expert, to work with us. We could apply for the Grant on our own, since it is no longer matching and would not cost the Borough any money.

SARA BARTELLONI: Would it be okay if I reach out to Mr. Porco, regarding the website.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: He is new on the Council, so I do not know him. I told Councilman Porco I will e-mail him after tonight's meeting to get any information he has about what is happening in town, such as the American Legion building.

SARA BARTELLONI: I would like to know if we could set up a River Edge Historic Commission e-mail, and where we would establish that e-mail and if it is okay to create the River Edge Historic Commission You Tube channel.

MIKE GINCH: You can also ask if we could create an independent page, like Closter has done.

SARA BARTELLONI: That costs approximately \$60.00 a year.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: We have a budget. We can look into that. There are a lot of exciting things we are working on. Any new business to discuss?

TAPE ENDED