

**HISTORIC COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**February 27, 2013**

8:15 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>Sara Theresa Bartelloni</u>	X	
<u>Harold DeYoung</u>	X	
<u>Mike Ginch</u>	X	
<u>Joan Kristan</u>	X	
<u>Liaison Anthony Cappola</u>		X

AUDIENCE:

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Stated everyone received Sam Cereste's legal opinion, along with the letter written by Phyllis and Mary. Advised they are waiting for a date from the Town Council to present the case to the Council. Indicated she will provide everyone with a copy of the Historic component to the Master Plan.

**SARA BARTELLONI:** Questioned if the Council does not support the Historic designation, if this issue can be revisited at a later date.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Stated she believes it can be revisited, as in Closter when the house was sold and the re-designation was made with the new property owners. If the Town Council does approve the designation, it would no longer be a political decision, as the next step would be the County level, then the State level, at which time it becomes a legal issue. Advised there are 2 legal issues involved, one of the issues is if the Commission has the right to designate the house and the second is questioning if the house is historically worthy of designation. The Town Council has the power to reject the designation for any reason they want, beyond that it becomes a legal decision.

**HAROLD DeYOUNG:** Indicated as a practical matter, if this is one to revisit, you may be better waiting until there is a new Council.

**SARA BARTELLONI:** Stated if it came to that, it may be better to wait for the new Council, who may be more supportive of the Historic Commissions' recommendation.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Advised the last time this occurred, it went before the Planning Board, and then to the Council. The owner of the house was Fred Newman, who is a builder, so it may have been political. Advised Fred Newman initially was against the designation, however, he dropped his protest when it came before the Town Council.

Stated that Joe Piccone is not protesting his designation and questioned if the Council will let one be historically designated and not the second house.

**SARA BARTELLONI:** Stated that is why she questioned if the Commission went forward without knowing the Council's intention, if the Commission would be locked into that decision.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Stated she was advised it can be revisited in the future.

**HAROLD DeYOUNG:** Indicated possibly the Council may be questioning if they want an irate citizen upset with the Council if they go against the citizen's wishes.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Stated if the Historic Commission is not permitted to historically designate a house that is on the National and State Registry, why have a Historic Commission. Advised that house is the only other house in River Edge, other than New Bridge Landing, on the National and State Registry. Indicated there are a couple of houses in River Edge that were identified by the 1981 Bergen survey as historic.

**MIKE GINCH:** Questioned if it would be considered harassment if you revisit the designation with the same owners or a substantive reason to reattempt the designation, as the owners would have to retain counsel again. Stated if the Council is leaning towards not designating the house, it may be better to wait.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Stated the Commission does not know what the Council may decide, as it is a new Council since the last designation.

**SARA BARTELLONI:** Stated at the Historic Designation Hearing it was clear that Anthony Cappola was supportive of the designation and why it was being done.

**MIKE GINCH:** Stated there is a difference between being supportive as to why the designation was being made and a Council Member agreeing to the designation.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Stated it was the Commission's duty to designate the house and nothing more can be done other than present it to the Council. Stated if the Council does not agree, she would not revisit the designation with the same Council.

**SARA BARTELLONI:** Questioned if the Historic Commission is to appear before the Council by the end of March to discuss the designation, if they Commission should prepare something before that time.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Questioned what would need to be presented other than the historic designation reports, which were already done.

**HAROLD DeYOUNG:** Stated to reiterate the reports orally in order to put them on the record.

**MIKE GINCH:** Stated you may want to include the documentary information regarding property values, as that will be their argument.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Stated there is a 300 page document by Rutgers, which can be read into the Minutes, which indicates that the worse case scenario is that property values stay neutral, however most of the time values go up. Stated the other matter that needs to be restated is what the historic designation entails, as most people do not understand the designation, which is the street view of the home.

**JOAN KRISTAN:** Questioned if it would be useful to present examples of homes that were recently demolished in Bergen County because they were not designated.

**SARA BARTELLONI:** Stated she thought it is a good idea showing instances as to what happens when a town does not designate a house, such as in Paramus.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Questioned if anyone would like to do the research.

**SARA BARTELLONI:** Stated they could present the newspaper articles.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Indicated she was advised by Andrea Tingley, State CLG Officer which CLG's have successfully historically designated private homes and those towns can be included.

**MIKE GINCH:** Stated the house in town that was masonry over is also a good example.

**HAROLD DeYOUNG:** Stated that the Commission is already in compliance with any regulation, however, it will end up with the Council making the decision and an individual Councilman will vote on his own judgment.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Advised that Sam Cereste stated the Historic Commission provides guidelines that permit modification, alternation of the residence short of demolition, and instruction of the historical elements of the site. This is the strongest argument for the Commission.

**HAROLD DeYOUNG:** Stated that there may be more going on other than what was presented.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Stated that when a date is scheduled, the Commission should meet beforehand.

Advised the Historic Commission has \$750.00 in the Open Space Grant and advised the money can only be used on historically designated sites. Stated she is not aware of any historical sites that need any assistance.

**SARA BARTELLONI:** Stated the façade of town hall is in disrepair and that could be a potential project.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Stated that would be worthy of the money as the Borough Hall is historically designated. Advised there were problems with the cobble stone streets due to Hurricane Irene, however she believes that may have been taken care of, however the Claredon Court sign is historic and money could be put towards that project.

*Questioned if Sara Bartelloni needed help identifying photographs for the website.*

**SARA BARTELLONI:** Advised the document has not been scanned. Indicated there were not many photographs, however typing the history under the photographs will take time. Stated Joan came up with some general questions for the oral history, with specific questions pertaining to the particular individual that is being interviewed. Advised that YouTube had done a transcript to the Historic videos that the Commission posted.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Advised that the Commission requested money in the budget for a transcriber.

**SARA BARTELLONI:** Stated YouTube appears to do it automatically.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Indicated Mike has some information regarding a fundraiser.

**MIKE GINCH:** Advised there are some photographs that can be reproduced as postcards or calendars. Stated that actual photographs will reproduce better. Stated not sure what kind of fundraiser can be done, as it depends on the material that is gathered.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Stated a Historical Calendar was made for the Centennial, which is something that can be done as a fundraiser.

**MIKE GINCH:** Stated just having the material would be beneficial to the Commission.

**SARA BARTELLONI:** Questioned where you would advertise to request old photographs.

**MIKE GINCH:** Advised it could be done during a town event at Memorial Park.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Stated the Town News could be a place to advertise.

**No update New Bridge landing (Mary not in attendance)  
New business –Post Card fundraisers already discussed  
Meeting adjourned 9:30 next meeting March 27, 2013**