

# HISTORIC COMMISSION

## MINUTES

June 27, 2012

8:08 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>Liaison Anthony Cappola</u>		

AUDIENCE: Peter Dunsay

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Indicated that a wall attached to one of the kiosks on Manning and Voorhis, was knocked over. Stated she will forward a letter, along with photographs, to the Town Council asking them to have that repaired. Stated she does not believe it will be difficult to repair.

**PETER DUNSAY:** Stated he saw the damage and indicated it could be repaired.

**MARY DONOHUE:** Stated she believed that all the bricks are still there.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Advised that the Town has maintained the kiosk in the past and believes they will repair them this time.

**MARY DONOHUE:** Read the letter they will be sending to the Town Council.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Advised they have a date for the historic designation of the two homes in River Edge; The Blair House and 56 Spring Valley Road (River Edge Hotel), which is October 3, 2012. Advised the only major restriction placed on homeowners of a historically designated home is that they cannot knock down the house. Stated the Blair House owner is a former member of the Historic Commission and does not believe he will have a problem with his home being designated, however she is not sure how the homeowners of the River Edge Hotel will feel about the designation. She stated the River Edge Hotel is already on the State and National Historical Registry. Stated that

Sam Cereste will send out certified letters to the homeowners 20 days prior to the meeting date and after the meeting, the Commission will make a recommendation to be forwarded to the Town Council. Advised that the Council makes the final decision and typically no arguments are raised whether or not a house is historical, as a lot of research is done prior to having a hearing.

Stated Tenafly came up with a book on historical local guidelines for buildings and were working with the County on the book. Stated having a historical guideline for homes and sites, saves a lot of problems. Advised the historically designated homes in River Edge are in the Master Plan, which makes it easier to determine if someone is looking to renovate a historically designated home, as they would have to go before the Planning Board. Requested an update on the Historical Surveys and the oral histories being uploaded to You Tube.

**SARA BARTELLONI:** Stated the historical survey will be worked on over the summer. Indicated she needs assistance regarding the photographs. Stated she started working on the oral histories and is attempting to transcribe them. Indicated she is hoping to start the interviews with Mary Donohue.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Stated it should be publicized that the oral histories are on You Tube.

**SARA BARTELLONI:** Advised the oral histories are imbedded on the Historic Commission page on the Borough's web site, as well as on You Tube.

Discussion was had regarding what individuals are in River Edge that can potentially be interviewed for the oral histories and a location where they can be videotaped.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Indicated a Release needs to be made up for the individuals who are going to be interviewed to sign.

**SARA BARTELLONI:** Stated she will check with River Dell as to what Media Release form they use.

**MEMBER:** Questioned if the photographs that Yoshi took were of specific locations.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Stated they were revised photographs of the homes already listed on the historical survey.

**MEMBER:** Stated that the houses can possibly be identified by using the list of historical homes.

**SARA BARTELLONI:** Stated she attempted to match the photographs with the list, but it is still difficult. Indicated also that once they get started on the oral histories, they will have an idea of the types of questions to be asked.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Advised that everyone should think of questions for the oral histories and forward them to her to review prior to the interviews.

**MEMBER:** Questioned if it would make sense for the Building Department to have a list of the historically designated homes as well as the Planning Board.

**MARY DONOHUE:** Believed it would be a good idea.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Indicated that could be done. Stated Sara suggested the Commission come up with the official colors of the River Edge Train Station in honor of Yoshi, since he is not feeling well, as that is something he wanted to do. Advised the historical colors she was able to discover, which she obtained from the Erie Train Station Museum, were 2 different colors of green.

Advised she spoke with Daragh, who indicated they have space for the historical records, once the Commission can get a grant to digitize the records. Questioned if Mary Donohue has an update on New Bridge Landing.

**MARY DONOHUE:** Stated that on September 19<sup>th</sup> the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Naturalization Ceremony will be held in the Steuben House. Advised the State is not going to give any funding for the New Bridge Landing Museum project, therefore they will be raising their own money. They need approximately \$350,000.00, and they already have \$100,000.00.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Questioned if the Steuben House is opened to the school children.

**MARY DONOHUE:** Advised that it has not been opened since the flood in 2007. Stated it is unfortunate, as every year they lose a generation of children that visit the Steuben House, which is a generation of children who do not learn about the town's involvement in the American Revolution. Advised there will be a fundraiser in the fall, when they will hold an Octoberfest.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Questioned that since the Steuben House is owned by the State, if the State is planning to do anything to help with the Steuben House.

**MARY DONOHUE:** Advised they are not. Stated the New Bridge Landing Commission appeared before the Mayor and Council and requested they make a plea to the State to do something about the Steuben House. Advised the State needs to provide a caretaker for the Steuben House and the property. Advised that the New Bridge Landing Commission is trying to lease a piece of their property. Advised they did receive a proposal and the individual is willing to build a building to their specifications and pay \$100,000.00 a year to lease.

**NEXT MEETING:** October 3, 2012.