

**HISTORIC COMMISSION
MINUTES**

May 25, 2011

8:15 p.m.



Lib: Cont
VS
CC: M & C
All Depts
Other

ATTENDANCE

File
Follow

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

Members of Audience: Peter Dunsay

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Sara brought in the historical display and it looks great. I would like to add at some point, "Layout and Photo Credits."

SARA BARTELLONI: It is not necessary. Once I receive all the text, I will put that if there is room.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Laura did the layout for the brochure, which I will bring to the next meeting that includes all the information. Yoshi mentioned keeping a photographic record of sites before new construction. Such as, the strip of where Manor Drugs was located, even if it is not a historical site. It is just to keep a record of what is happening in the town.

PETER DUNSAY: Colin Quinn may have that.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: There may be other people in town that may have the photograph of the Manor Drugs.

YOSHI AONO: Where would you get a photograph of the old junk yard? Possibly the Bergen Record.

PETER DUNSAY: New Bridge Landing may have photographs.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: They may have been required to take photographs prior to the environmental cleanup.

YOSHI AONO: Is there a special department that is in charge of old photographs?

PHYLLIS ANGELO: There is no specific place for old photographs. I would suggest contacting the Bergen Record to see if there is an old article about the junk yard and possibly the Town News.

YOSHI AONO: It should be our job to record the buildings in the Borough. Such as Palmer Brothers, has an ACE sign.

PETER DUNSAY: Palmer Brothers was bought by ACE several years ago.

YOSHI AONO: Our responsibility should include taking photographs of the stores as a record to be kept with the Historical Commission. The only thing is how to go about doing that.

SARA BARTELLONI: You could include that as a separate survey.

YOSHI AONO: The photographs would just be of the stores, as 10 years down the road they could change. That is part of the Town's history to include the commercial buildings.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Denise recently called me and asked if we had a photograph of Jay's Fish Store that was in the train station. Doing this type of survey would be very pertinent.

SARA BARTELLONI: The Commission can make a commitment every 5 or 10 years to update that photographic survey.

YOSHI AONO: It does not have to be done every year. The question is, after I take the photograph, where will the photographs be stored and who will be responsible for the description?

PETER DUNSAY: You can do a video tape, such as a virtual tour.

SARA BARTELLONI: You can also do a slide show.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: It is happening next to Delta Gas, as Dante's is moving in there.

SARA BARTELLONI: The photographs could be organized by lot number.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: That is a very worth while project, which we should take on.

SARA BAETELLONI: I would like to attach the historic survey we are working on to the River Edge web-site, as well as the Library web-site.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: I would still like to designate the Blair House and the River edge Hotel. Mary was going to research one and I was going to research the other. We will put in on the Agenda in September and have Sam Cereste come to the meeting. We need to send both homeowners of our intent to designate the houses as historic. I do not believe we will have a problem with the designations, as the River Edge Hotel is already

on the State and National Registry and we already had a discussion with the owner of the Blair House, who was a former member of the Historic Commission. The River Edge Hotel, 56 Spring Valley Road, is a stone construction and has a colorful history as a hotel, tavern. Also, it is on a double or triple lot, so there is some concern if they want to sell the property.

SARA BARTELLONI: In the summer I will have more time to complete the survey and will e-mail the survey to you.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Received in the mail Andrea Tidley, the CLG Chairman, information regarding a site they have called "Preservepedia," which provides historical terms. For the next round of Grants, we should consider applying for a Grant to hire an expert. If we approach New Milford and Teaneck to share an expert, we would be more likely to get the Grant. Mary is not here to give a New Bridge Landing update. Maybe we could get an update on Blauvelt Mansion.

PETER DUNSAY: It is complicated. It received the endangered designation and the Wellness Foundation has taken over the mortgage. The Wells family will vacate the premises in two months. The Borough of Oradell is helpful.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: They would have to match a million dollar grant.

PETER DUNSAY: It is not going to happen in this environment.

SARA BARTELLONI: They mentioned passing some Resolutions to give them some assistance.

PETER DUNSAY: They are hoping something could be constructed in the back of the house.

SARA BARTELLONI: The front of the property is protected because the history of Blauvelt House talks about the rolling property in the front of the building.

PETER DUNSAY: A lot of money needs to be put into the building, as it is not in good condition.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Oradell does not have a Historical Society. Or Commission. However, you are not required to have one to get something put on the State and National Registry. Not sure why that was not done for the Blauvelt as it has a lot of history.

SARA BARTELLONI: They did discuss famous people who had been at the Blauvelt House.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: If it was on the State and National Registry, the house would have been safe from being knocked down.

PETER DUNSAY: They are working on a practical solution. Oradell does not have the money or the ability to maintain the Blauvelt House.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: The Blauvelt Museum is owned by the Blauvelt Foundation, so the museum is not in peril. Lastly, the liaison to our Commission, Mr. Moscaritolo, asked if the American Legion is historic. I do not believe so, as it has never been on any Historical County Survey. Possibly the posts themselves are historical as it is named after a WWI Veteran. The building, as far as I know, does not have any historical standing.

PETER DUNSAY: Possibly 1920's, post-WWI.

SARA BARTELLONI: I recall my grandmother discussing about the building going up after she moved into town post-WWII.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: The Cultural Center House was built in the 1920's and was a private residence until 1978.

SARA BARTELLONI: What are the oldest aerial photographs we have?

PETER DUNSAY: Probably 1940's, but it is easy to check the Deed on the building.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: If they are going in that direction, I don't see how they can indicate it is historic. However, I will look at the Deed to check. The Town Council will have to make other decisions about it. I think the historic value is in the post itself, which could be anywhere, as it is not attached to the building. There is confusion sometimes with Historic Preservation, as a house can be historic due to the person that lived there, a past Mayor as an example.

SARA BARTELLONI: Some homes listed on the survey were designated historic because of the architectural style.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: There are four criteria to designating a home, and the home could have all four of the criteria or only one of the criteria. I would like a motion to approve the minutes.

YOSHI AONO: I make the motion to accept.

SARA BARTELLONI: Second.

MEETING ADJOURNED: I have rescheduled the next meeting for June 29, 2011. That will be the fifth Wednesday of June. I have a commitment prior for our regular date.