

HISTORIC COMMISSION
MINUTES
June 24, 2020
7:53 p.m.

MEETING VIA ZOOM

<u>ATTENDANCE:</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
<u>Phyllis Angelo</u>	X	
<u>Mary Donohue</u>		X
<u>Sara Theresa Bartelloni</u>	X	
<u>Mike Ginch</u>	X	
<u>Eric Model</u>	X	
<u>James Hoogstrate</u>	X	
<u>Liaison Michelle Kaufman</u>	X	
<u>Deborah Powell</u>	X	
<u>Joshua Wiesenfeld</u>	X	

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised the budget is \$6,650.00, they removed the one line item for the attorney for the historic designation, but they have money in the budget for the attorney for the Blair House designation. Stated she spoke with Jonathan Kenny from the Preservation in Trenton, who advised that he was not sure that can legally can stop the process of designation, as it does not stop the process of having a hearing. Questioned if anyone had any thoughts.

MIKE GINCH: Stated they can stop the process if they are not going to pay for the attorney, as part of the process is having an attorney present at the hearing.

PHYLISS ANGELO: Advised Mr. Kenny never heard of stopping the process.

SARA BARTELLONI: Stated you would have to see if the town denied the Commission due to budgetary issues and then let Jonathan know that they stopped the process. Questioned if the budget stated a designation for a specific property.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised she did not see that on the budget, but Michelle did state that is what it means.

MICHELLE KAUFMAN: Stated it states there is \$2,000 for "a" designation.

SARA BARTELLONI: Stated then it could be for whatever designation and is not sure that the town stopped the process, but they approved the Commission to move forward with one designation at a time. Advised it appears the town said you can go ahead with designating one property.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Questioned if they should go and designate one property, or ask the Council why they should stop the process.

SARA BARTELLONI: Stated the town in the past never said you had to budget for potential hearings, but they are now saying you do, however the town is making it clear they will not approve designating more than one at a time, so they have not stopped the process on our two properties, they essential said you get one designation a year.

ERIC MODEL: Stated they are pacing the rate of the hearings, but are not killing the process.

SARA BARTELLONI: Indicated she feels they would be stopping the process only if they gave no money for it in the budget.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised initially their full budget was approved by Ray.

MICHELLE KAUFMAN: Stated Ray is not the Mayor and Council.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated she usually met with Alan for the budget and if there were any issues Alan would tell her at the time of the meeting. Indicated she is not sure when they can schedule a formal hearing at this time due to Covid and everything being closed.

MICHELLE KAUFMAN: Advised the Commission's budget actually went up this year.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised they have a new project this year with the QR Codes, which everyone was excited about. Advised she spoke with George Carter, who is willing to show Abigail how to do the archiving once the library opens.

SARA BARTELLONI: Questioned if other organizations were being forced to allocate money for potential hearings.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated no, but Michelle was going to look into if the County had money to place other towns online with the archiving, however it is difficult to reach anyone at the County at this time with offices being closed.

MICHELLE KAUFMAN: Stated the County only opened up two weeks ago.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated that would be good to look into as George Carter had done 5 or 6 towns and none of them are on-line.

SARA BARTELLONI: Stated she doesn't believe, since being shut down for a long time, they are ready to move forward with something like that right now.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Questioned Jim if he has created the video for the archives.

JIM HOOGSTRATE: Questioned Mike if the video was finished.

MIKE GINCH: Indicated he didn't think so.

JIM HOOGSTRATE: Stated they had some of it done, but it went on the back burner due to the shut downs.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Questioned if he could finish that over the summer.

JIM HOOGSTRATE: Stated he could get that done.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated that would be a good way to let people know they would like to have their documents and photographs. Questioned Sara where they should place the video.

SARA BARTELLONI: Stated both on the website and the YouTube channel.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Questioned Michelle if there was any news on the old post office and if the town was thinking of selling it.

MICHELLE KAUFMAN: Advised nothing is happening with that right now.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Questioned Mike if he has been in touch with Abigail, as she has not heard from her.

MIKE GINCH: Stated he has not spoken with her.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Questioned if Deborah Powell had heard from Abigail.

DEBORAH POWELL: Advised she spoke her with on Zoom and asked her if she had any questions, which she did not, but she is interested in the position.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised Abigail is familiar with George's method and stated they should vote on hiring Abigail. We are officially hiring Abigail for the position and Mr. Carter is doing the training. Questioned Josh if he is still willing to be a member of the Commission even though he will not be a voting member.

JOSH WEISENFELD: Stated that he is interested in being a member.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated they would like him to take over the Instagram account and the QR Code and questioned if he would be interested in that.

JOSH WEISENFELD: Stated he is interested in that and questioned if he has the clearance to do the work.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised yes he does, the only issue was whether he could be a voting member.

MICHELLE KAUFMAN: Questioned Josh if he was available for the next Council meeting, as they would like to officially appoint him to the Commission.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised the calendar was approved for next year. Advised Mary and herself worked on the CLG report and it was approved. Thanked Mary for all the hard work. Questioned if it was legal to do Zoom hearings, so they can work on the Blair House.

SARA BARTELLONI: Stated it is legal.

MICHELLE KAUFMAN: Advised Land Use has been doing Zoom meeting.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Questioned Eric if he will be able to do a seminar in the fall.

ERIC MODEL: Stated he would like to and questioned if Josh or Mike can help him.

JOSH WEISENFELD: Stated he could help.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Questioned Mike if they should buy the piece of metal to put on the QR sign, as it is in the budget.

MIKE GINCH: Stated they haven't discussed the details yet, but they can create a code and fill in the blanks later.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Questioned what everyone thinks.

SARA BARTELLONI: Advised they just need the content for the QR Codes and someone just needs to type that up.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated she will pick 5 signs she is going to do and will send them to everyone, so everyone else can pick a couple of street names.

SARA BARTELLONI: Stated they already have information from Phyllis and Mary regarding the street names, from prior meetings.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Questioned how long the definition should be, approximately.

SARA BARTELLONI: Advised the starting point need only be small, just to get it started. The QR Code only gets attached to it.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated it seems like it can be done over the summer.

MIKE GINCH: Stated he understands the motivation, but the subcommittee was to hash it out, as it is not as simple as Sara is making it sound. Indicated they need to look a little deeper.

SARA BARTELLONI: Stated the QR Code could bring you back to the website, which can hold all the information.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised she will speak with Mary and they will pick 5 street names with definitions and the subcommittee can meet and decide what they want to do.

SARA BARTELLONI: Stated that would be good.

JOSH WEISENFELD: Advised he could help out on the technology side, gearing it to people his age, and stated an independent website would work well as you could change the information on the website.

MIKE GINCH: Advised editing the content on the town's website could be problematic and an independent webpage is something they need to discuss.

SARA BARTELLONI: Advised she has not gone on the town's historic commission website and advised the Clerk had provided her with the information to edit the historic page, but indicated the webpage is like an "ugly monster" and that there are other sites that are affordable and to go that route.

MIKE GINCH: Questioned Michelle if the Commission can create a URL and put historic content on that.

MICHELLE KAUFMAN: Indicated they can do that and that they are in the middle of redoing the town website.

DEBORAH POWELL: Suggested not to do something on the website now, as the URL will be changing.

MICHELLE KAUFMAN: Stated it would be good to get the signs up now as more people are walking the streets.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised if the County could not put money into doing online archives, since they are a CLG they can get a grant to do that. Thanked Sara and Jim for working on the 100th Anniversary of Roosevelt School. Questioned Eric if they can put QR Codes on Facebook, as well as the videos.

ERIC MODEL: Stated he will talk to Mike and Josh and integrate that.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Questioned Deborah if there is an update on New Bridge.

DEBORAH POWELL: Stated she redid the society's website using software called WIX and the benefit of that is it's all online and she has been adding articles and video to it. Questioned if there was any kind of tax benefit for designating the homes and whether that has been looked into.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised they have been trying to do that for 10 years as that would help, but nothing happens.

DEBORAH POWELL: Questioned if there is any law on the books for graffiti on historic sites.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated not that she is aware of.

DEBORAH POWELL: Stated that should be something they should have, especially with the present situation.

MIKE GINCH: Questioned if something happened at New Bridge.

DEBORAH POWELL: Advised nothing has happened.

MICHELLE KAUFMAN: Questioned if she wanted something done in advance so that nothing does happen.

DEBORAH POWELL: Stated yes, so that somebody can be charged if something did happen.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Indicated they may have something already for vandalism on a public building.

MICHELLE KAUFMAN: Advised she will look into it.

SARA BARTELLONI: Questioned Deborah Powell if she wanted it to be expanded to historical designated properties as an additional layer of fines.

DEBORAH POWELL: Wanted to make sure that if somebody did something they can be charged. Advised they spoke in the past about the relationship between the old bridge and the new bridge, she showed some maps on the website, and questioned if they can see if the County would put up a brown marker for the old bridge or to put up one of the society's blue markers, but was thinking where they can place the marker and was asking what the commission thought about it.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated the markers are great but they are expensive. Indicated there is a 100 year old veteran that lives in town and said they would like to do a video of that person.

JIM HOOGSTRATE: Advised he could talk to Jim Karpawich to set that up.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Questioned if anyone had something they would like to bring up.

SARA BARTELLONI: Questioned if they found out if they are the only Commission that is subject to extra attorney fees due to potential legal issues and if they need to find this out from the Borough attorney.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised the attorney charges a fee for his services and that the prior attorney did it for free.

SARA BARTELLONI: Questioned if other commissions need to allocate money for potential litigation, only because this has been a 10 year process for 2 properties, so in order to plan ahead they need to know.

MICHELLE KAUFMAN: Stated she will check, but she does not believe any other committees are using a lawyer.

MIKE GINCH: Advised there is something in the historic ordinance stating to secure fees for the Borough attorney.

SARA BARTELLONI: Indicated if they were to select one property over another one, they would run into an issue if the town did not provide them funds to have a hearing.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised for the first time in 15 years they put money in the budget for attorney fees.

MIKE GINCH: Stated the Council has given them almost everything they asked for, but it can be a huge cost if they wanted to designate 10 properties a year.

DEBORAH POWELL: Questioned what Josh's interest is and if he has a particular interest he would like to pursue.

JOSH WEISENFELD: Advised he spoke a lot with John about the commission, and he does like the local history and the historic homes and believed it was important to have another student on the commission after John left to help the commission connect with people his age.

DEBORAH POWELL: Questioned if he had any ideas on how to go about doing that.

JOSH WEISENFELD: Stated he believes Instagram is a great start, as well as a website.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Thanked Michelle for putting together the Zoom meeting.

MEETING ENDED: