

# ***HISTORIC COMMISSION***

## ***MINUTES***

***January 22, 2020***

8:03 p.m.

### **ATTENDANCE:**

	<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	

AUDIENCE: Joshua Wiesenfeld, Oradell, NJ

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated she met with Ray, the new Borough Administrator, regarding the Budget and it was approved and he also added an additional \$2000 to the lawyer's fee, for one designation.

MIKE GINCH: Stated it would be helpful for the Council going forward to see how much the Commission has done and how much you think they need to get done and what there will likely be in the future because he doesn't believe the budget for what they are asking for now should be continue at the level it is now.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised initially the material that was being archived was all the stuff that the Borough had in the safe, but Ray told her the Council hired someone to scan the treasury documents and Stephanie checked to see if they are certified to do archiving, and they are.

ERIC MODEL: Suggested taking an inventory to see what they are hoping to collect and who they are asking material from, then you can put a dollar figure next to it.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised she has no problem with that. Stated she called the County to see if they know of any Archivist and they just hired a new one, but she is not available to the towns as she works full time for the County. Cynthia Forester advised if we put together a classified ad she will pass it around and will also ask the Archivist if she is aware of anyone.

MICHELLE KAUFMAN: Suggested putting it on the town website as well.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated they will put it on the website. Questioned if Jim put together a video?

JIM HOOGSTRATE: Advised he has not done it yet, but he will write a script up this month, but he does have two ready to go and will send those to Sara Theresa for her to upload.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Questioned Michelle if there was a status on the post office.

MICHELLE KAUFMAN: Advised there will be nothing happening with it right now.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Questioned Michelle if she has reached out to have the county take the different towns Mr. Carter archived and put them on line.

MICHELLE KAUFMAN: Stated she believed they were going to try and get a Grant to do that but she will reach out to the County.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised herself and Mary spoke with the Mayor and they came to a compromise to have the high school student not be a voting member until they are 18 years old.

MIKE GINCH: Questioned if there is not a quorum, is the student allowed to vote.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated the student is not allowed to vote. Stated the Mayor indicated they would be a full member in every way, except they would not be allowed to vote until they are 18.

Discussion was had regarding what you should call a non-voting student member of the Commission

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated they should contact the Borough Attorney to schedule a date for the historic designation. Questioned if anyone had other thoughts on that matter.

MIKE GINCH: Questioned if you should wait until the budget gets passed.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Questioned Michelle when the budget would be passed.

MICHELLE KAUFMAN: Stated they need to figure out what they are going to say before the Mayor and Council first as she believes that is part of the process.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated first you have the historic designation with the Commission, the attorney notifies the homeowners, then it is voted on by the Commission before it is brought to the Planning Board, afterward it goes to the Council who makes the final decision.

MICHELLE KAUFMAN: Questioned if you make a presentation to the Planning Board.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised they make a presentation to the Planning Board and then make a presentation to the Council.

MICHELLE KAUFMAN: Questioned which property you are looking to designate.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised they can go with the Blair House, whose owner does not have a problem with it, and the other house was the Spring Valley house, which is referred to as the River Edge Hotel. Stated the only reason it did not go through the designation process the first time was because the Council could not locate the Historic Component of the Master Plan.

DEBORAH POWELL: Stated the last she heard the Council did not want to go forward with the designations.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised she spoke with Mayor and they did not realize it was on the State and National Registry.

MICHELLE KAUFMAN: Stated you still need to have the Council vote on it.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated that is part of the process.

MIKE GINCH: Stated there has been so much debate over the designations, the Commission has decided to just continue with doing their job and go forward with the designations and let the Council decide.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised herself and Mary told the Mayor the Commission is a CLG and the CLG does not understand why the Commission has not designated the houses.

JAMES HOOGSTRADE: Questioned if you go through the process and the Council votes it down, are you allowed to designate it again, or is it a one shot deal.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated it is not a one shot deal.

MICHELLE KAUFMAN: Stated she believes the Mayor suggested doing it as two separate motions at the same time, so possibly one designation may happen and one designation may not.

MIKE GINCH: Questioned what the rationale is behind that.

MICHELLE KAUFMAN: Advised because it is two separate houses.

MIKE GINCH: Stated then they will be weighing what has more historical value over the other.

MICHELLE KAUFMAN: Stated Phyllis said they are separate anyway.

MIKE GINCH: Stated it may be a possible headache for the Mayor.

SARA BARTELLONI: Stated possibly he wants it done this way is because the Mayor may be more comfortable with the house there is no issue with designating.

MIKE GINCH: Questioned if that is how it is going to be explained.

ERIC MODEL: Indicated they are setting it up in advance, rather than it being neutral.

MIKE GINCH: Stated what could happen is the house with less resistance, which is likely less historic, is more likely to get designated.

MICHELLE KAUFMAN: Advised it is on the Commission to state this is just a memorialization and it has already been designated by the State and the Country and it is on the owner to come in and argue why it should not be locally designated.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised when he came before the Commission the first time, the homeowner claimed he was not aware it was on the State and National Registry.

SARA BARTELLONI: Stated that whether or not you believe him is irrelevant, because at this point he is aware it was designated.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Questioned if everyone wants to do the designations separately or together, as was done in the past.

MARY DONOHUE: Stated she would like to do them together.

JAMES HOOGSTRATE: Questioned if it costs more if they are done together.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated it probably costs more if the attorney has to come on another night.

MICHELLE KAUFMAN: Stated she is not sure, as she believes it is a separate dollar amount for each one. Advised the money is not there yet as the budget is not done, so it may be better to wait until the budget is passed.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Questioned when the budget will be passed.

MICHELLE KAUFMAN: Indicated April 30<sup>th</sup>.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Questioned if everyone is okay with doing the designations as in the past, present the two houses and vote on the two houses separately.

MEMBER: Questioned if it is in the process of being designated, can the house be torn down during that time.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated probably not while the Commission is holding a hearing. Advised they will wait until the budget passes before going forward with the designations. Questioned Eric if he is doing another "remembering River Edge."

ERIC MODEL: Stated he will be giving a talk in a couple of weeks to SCORE and he would like to open up the lines with the high school to see what they could do and possibly do an intergenerational thing.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Questioned Mike about the QR Codes.

MIKE GINCH: Advised the Signs by Blohm is gone and will look for other places.

INAUDIBLE

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated Josh is interested in helping with the history of the different streets.

MIKE GINCH: Stated you need to decide which ones you want to do first.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised Mary had suggested starting with five streets awhile back.

MARY DONOHUE: Advised it was Van Saun, Zabriskie, Howland, Webb and Continental.

SARA BARTELLONI: Questioned where Josh would find the research on those street names.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated the River Edge history books have the information.

MIKE GINCH: Stated you first need to decide the length of content, if you want to include pictures, other information needs to be decided before you put anything on the pole, which is for another discussion.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Questioned what you physically need to put on a pole.

MIKE GINCH: Advised he will come up with a summary.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Thanked everybody that helped with the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Roosevelt School. Questioned Eric if there is anything to report regarding Facebook.

ERIC MODEL: Stated he does not know what he is supposed to do at this point and that the administrator had set up a Facebook page.

SARA BARTELLONI: Stated it all comes back to content and suggested to establish a subcommittee in charge of content.

MIKE GINCH: Stated if they had something where people could take a little more ownership and work autonomously it may get done quicker.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Questioned if anyone wants to take that on as a subcommittee.

SARA BARTELLONI: Stated they want to be immediately digital to get the word out. Advised you can put stuff on Instagram and link it to Facebook, by mentioning any group within River Edge on Facebook.

MICHELLE KAUFMAN: Stated before Josh puts anything on Instagram, someone needs to review it, as that is the Social Media policy of the town.

SARA BARTELLONI: Advised the Social Media policy of the town requires that the town knows who has access to any social media account.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Questioned who will take on that subcommittee.

ERIC MODEL: Advised he will get in contact with Carolyn, but he would like to do it in context with someone on the Commission to give it another approval.

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

DEBORAH POWELL: Advised she got the book out and it was well received. Stated they are making progress on the museum building and hopes to go before the town in February or March and the sewer connection is close to being done. Advised they received a collection in the fall from a 1600 Dutch collector and they have 2 events on Sunday and that on February 9<sup>th</sup> an archeologist will be giving a speech. Advised they also received a donation in the fall of two paintings done in 1783 of Washington and Greene, which are on exhibit.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Asked Deborah if she would be able to give a talk about the book to the Commission, which could be opened to the general public, as they can use that as a CLG requirement.

MEETING ADJOURNED  
Next meeting February 26th