

HISTORIC COMMISSION
MINUTES
April 27, 2016
8:15 p.m.

<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>Joan Kristan</u>		X
<u>Eric Model</u>	X	
<u>Liaison Vito Acquafredda</u>		X

AUDIENCE:

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Discussed the April workshop and stated the Commission should consider doing a public relations campaign prior to a second hearing on Historic Designation. This would include stating how important the homes are to the town.

SARA BARTELLONI: Stated the presentation was compelling and it might be interesting to have him prepare a presentation to show the Council. Questioned if that is something the Commission would be interested in.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Indicated she will speak to him about that and stated Kevin, as the Town Historian, should hold some lectures at the library about the history of the development of the Borough.

ERIC MODEL: Stated even if Kevin does not give a lecture, the Commission should do one.

SARA BARTELLONI: Indicated she would like to look at the Master Plan to see what houses were highlighted in the Historic Component of Plan.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Indicated she can ask Judy to forward a copy of the newly adopted Master Plan.

SARA BARTELLONI: Indicated she believes the Commission should have focused on just the one house for the designation. Suggested as a public relations idea to publicly recognize the homeowner of the house across from the diner for preserving the home, along with the house on the cobblestone street.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated that can be done and is a good idea to recognize them.

ERIC MODEL: Questioned if there is a lesser designation if someone put wrong siding on their home.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised the Master Plan indicates the difference of a house being historically designated and a house being historically relevant but does not rise to the level of designation.

ERIC MODEL: Indicated the house where Mickey Mantle lived may not be historic, but it is a part of River Edge history and should be recognized.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised Eric to write something about the Williams house and seeing the tunnel that was part of the Underground Railroad. Advised Cecilia Wong, owner of the Demarest House, wants to paint it and replace the wooden shutters as they are in bad shape. Questioned if she could replace the wooden shutters with another type of shutter and if the paint color needs to be green. I have advised the homeowner that she may remove the shutters for painting but must be placed back on the house after painting.

ERIC MODEL: Suggested having a "go to" person, as he does not want to guess what should be done.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised the mantra is "repair rather than replace" however she is not sure of the condition of the shutters and if they are repairable.

MIKE GINCH: Suggested asking the town of Closter for advice.

ERIC MODEL: Stated he does not feel comfortable making a determination as he is not an expert,

MIKE GINCH: Suggested asking the experts what the standard is in this general area of Bergen County.

SARA BARTELLONI: Advised telling the owner the Commission needs to get back to her.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated the owner is aware her house is historic, which is why she asked if she could change the shutters and if the paint color needs to stay the color green.

MIKE GINCH: Advised this is a great opportunity to learn how to deal with these types of situations and being helpful to the homeowners would go a long way in public relations for the Commission.

ERIC MODEL: Suggested giving the homeowner examples of what colors are acceptable, rather than tell her what color it should be painted.

SARA BARTELLONI: Stated vinyl shutters are not an acceptable replacement and suggested finding a resource for an appropriate recommendation for the shutters.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Indicated the County may have some resources she can recommend.

SARA BARTELLONI: Indicated the shutters may be able to be repaired.

ERIC MODEL: Stated he would rather the homeowner go to an expert to see if they can be repaired.

MIKE GINCH: Questioned if the shutters are a period element that needs to be on the house.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated yes, it is a period element, along with the windows that are on the house.

SARA BARTELLONI: Stated you first need to determine if the shutters are repairable, if not, what the recommendation would be for a replacement. Indicated most towns require the homeowner to stay within a color palate that is aligned with the time period of the home. Kevin dates the house at about 1861.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Asked Sara to email Elaine Gold or Cynthia Foster, who work for the County to get their suggestions.

MIKE GINCH: Stated there are several towns that have guidelines for historic homes and suggested contacting one of those towns.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated since the County did the original survey that placed this house on the historic list, the County should know the time period of the home.

ERIC MODEL: Indicated to advise the homeowner there are objective standards that have been set by other towns and suggested contacting Closter to find out the standards of that town.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Read a description of the Demarest home. Advised she questioned Jonathan about a tax abatement for homeowners as an incentive if they get their home historically designated and was told this question comes up every year and it gets vetoed.

SARA BARTELLONI: Advised that some historically designated places do get federal incentives, but only if they are a business.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised the Commission received the full budget of \$4,650.00.

MIKE GINCH: Stated that is very good considering the past budgets.

ERIC MODEL: Thanked the Mayor and Council for approving the budget.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised she wrote a letter to the Mayor regarding the Grant money, but the Commission will not be receiving the remaining Grant money as the State does not have the money in the budget.

SARA BARTELLONI: Advised she asked Jonathan if there was any chance of getting Grant money, but was told the Federal Government gets the money from the State and the money is no longer available. Said she questioned Jonathan if the Commission could reapply for the Grant to continue with the work and was advised the Commission would be considered for the Grant.

MIKE GINCH: Stated if this type of situation comes up again things need to be done differently as the Commission cannot lose money again.

SARA BARTELLONI: Advised this situation was unique.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated they had no idea it was a 6 month process.

MIKE GINCH: Stated he heard there was communication indicating things need to move along quickly.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised it was not until after all the paperwork was completed were they advised the deadline was September 30th and not until after Alan requested an extension, they found out you could not get one.

MIKE GINCH: Stated it could have been done differently.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated it took a long time to get the paperwork completed.

SARA BARTELLONI: Advised the Commission could not start any work until it received the Grant money and the paperwork was complete.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated she and Mary spent 2 months prior to the Grant organizing the material. This advance work of putting the documents together before Grant approval made it ready to go from day one.

SARA BARTELLONI: Advised she received an email from NJ Digital Highway inquiring if the Commission will be submitting any more material.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Questioned what else needs to be done.

SARA BARTELLONI: Stated she will reach out to Daragh and find out what he would like to do, as far as submitting items to the Digital Highway, but believes the Commission is finished submitting documents. Questioned whether she should send an email advising whether the Commission will be submitting more information.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Questioned if Mr. Carter should put more information on the Digital Highway as part of the next phase.

SARA BARTELLONI: Suggested advising the NJ Digital Highway the Commission is still deciding how to move forward with the project.

MIKE GINCH: Indicated he does not see any conflict.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated she will be contacting Mr. Carter to see when he is available to continue with the project. Questioned if the Commission should look at other ways to put information on line other than NJ Digital Highway.

MIKE GINCH: Indicated he does not see a need to find another way to place the information on line.

SARA BARTELLONI: Stated since Daragh is tapping into the Digital Highway, Daragh may want more information placed on it.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Indicated the Commission is working on the oral histories, as well as the criteria for paint colors for historic homes.

Next meeting May 25, 2016.

MEETING ENDED