

HISTORIC COMMISSION
MINUTES
March 22, 2017
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>Elizabeth McGinty</u>	X	
<u>Liaison Dario Chinigo</u>	X	

AUDIENCE: _____

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Questioned Dario about the progress of the historical component to the Master Plan.

DARIO CHINIGO: Advised it is in progress, there are some procedural irregularities that are being looked at and as soon as they are resolved it should be ready.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised she contacted the present Planner, who said he is not involved and she called the secretary to the Planning Board, who advised it is not on the agenda but it is being worked on. Stated it is predicated on being able to continue with the designation of the two homes.

SARA BARTELLONI: Advised the oral history of Barbara went great and Barbara wanted to talk more and believes even if it is informal, they should record Barbara further.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated she advised Barbara they are going to add text to the video.

SARA BARTELLONI: Stated Barbara was talking about her experience during WWII and while the WWII experience may not be the interest of the Historic Commission, it is definitely someone's interest that should be recorded, even if it is a Podcast.

MIKE GINCH: Suggested to better prepare the subjects of the oral histories, to emphasize the discussion needs to be on River Edge.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Questioned if she should contact Barbara to see if she wants to do something after Easter.

MIKE GINCH: Indicated he is okay with that and maybe ask her to go through the file cabinet. Stated the focus has been on people who live in River Edge for a long time and thought it might be fun to interview younger residents, such as a fourth grade or fifth grade student, to have that on the record as well.

SARA BARTELLONI: Advised she can try to go with Mike to interview Barbara.

MIKE GINCH: Suggested another way to approach having Barbara discuss her personal story is through the Veteran's project.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated that is something the History Department could take up and add her to their project, which goes to the Library of Congress, and that it should not be difficult to do.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated they were going to ask some of the high school students to come and do a project and questioned Sara if she was able to get anywhere with that.

SARA BARTELLONI: Advised there is some interest and curiosity as to what the projects would be.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated the history of the street signs is a great project for the students.

MIKE GINCH: Questioned if you are backing off of the larger agenda with the students, as becoming an active participant in the Commission.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated they wanted to get the students involved in the archive project due to their computer skills.

MIKE GINCH: Indicated the original idea was to make the student a member on the Commission.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised legally the student can be a member and a voting member.

MIKE GINCH: Stated they can be a member, however there are no openings on the Commission, and questioned why not revert back to what originally they were going to be utilized for, which was as a full non-voting member. Indicated he does not believe having students working on the street sign project would get them to join the Commission.

SARA BARTELLONI: Stated she has some volunteer students who are working towards a service goal, such as a gold award, and is trying to get them interested in the history of the town and to learn more about the town where they live, rather than asking for their help because of their computer skills.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated their computer skills would be put towards archival research.

MIKE GINCH: Stated at one point there was an idea to bring in younger people on the Historic Commission, which would allow them to put their membership on their college resume.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Questioned Sara if the students had any idea as to what projects they would want to do.

SARA BARTELLONI: Stated the students are looking for volunteer hours and finding the students is not necessarily the problem, it is having a task for them to work on.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Suggested giving the students some of the historic photographs that have already been archived and have them write the story of the picture, as they would be learning about the town, as well as writing something about the historical photograph.

DARIO CHINIGO: Questioned if there is a Historic Commission social group on Facebook.

SARA BARTELLONI: Stated there is not one, but it has been discussed.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised she has the forms to fill out from the Borough. Questioned Mike what projects the students could work on.

MIKE GINCH: Stated the person who is willing to write an essay as to why they want to be on the Historic Commission would have more of a commitment to the Commission.

SARA BARTELLONI: Stated she does not think the Commission will get an essay at this point.

MIKE GINCH: Stated the person who is willing to go through the process of being on the Historic Commission, will be in for the long haul, with the ups and downs.

DARIO CHINIGO: Questioned if you could have the students run the Facebook page.

SARA BARTELLONI: Stated that you could.

MIKE GINCH: Questioned if the social media policy would allow a student to do that.

DARIO CHINIGO: Advised it does, as it does not impinge on the First Amendment Right, and the social media policy is a guideline and must be adhered to.

SARA BARTELLONI: Stated the policy is more for the Borough to be aware of who is responsible for the Facebook page.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Discussed the social media form and questioned Sara if she wants to be the person responsible for the Facebook page.

SARA BARTELLONI: Indicated she would and stated the student can help with the Facebook page, along with the scanning and archiving.

INAUDIBLE

DARIO CHINIGO: Advised you do not have to have a Borough related Facebook page, you can have an independent Facebook page along with the Borough page.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Indicated they have a Borough page and stated there are oral histories on the Borough website.

SARA BARTELLONI: Advised Elizabeth how to access the oral histories on the Borough website.

ELIZABETH McGINTY: Advised they are going to fine tune the video of Barbara before placing it on the website.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Questioned if Barbara stated something during the interview that was incorrect, what can the Commission do to correct it and does it matter.

SARA BARTELLONI: Stated it should not be edited out, and it should be corrected as if it were a publication.

DARIO CHINIGO: Advised you can put in a disclaimer on the video.

MIKE GINCH: Agreed a blanket disclaimer is the right way to handle that type of situation.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Questioned Sara if the students should come to the April meeting.

SARA BARTELLONI: Stated April is testing and spring break and believes it is better to look at the sophomore students and to start them in September.

ELIZABETH McGINTY: Suggested developing a plan over the next few months for the students.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Questioned if everyone agrees to start in September.

SARA BARTELLONI: Stated that is just her suggestion.

MIKE GINCH: Stated he believes this is two separate things, a program to have a student as a full member and to have a student to help with the projects.

SARA BARTELLONI: Stated she agrees with that but April is a hard time to get a student to come to a meeting.

DARA CHINIGO: Stated he would ask the student how they would bring the Commission into the 21st Century, such as using social media, as they may have something they are excited about that the Commission is not aware of.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated they would probably like adding a social media component to the historic component.

DARA CHINIGO: Stated an Instagram page would be fantastic, you can put some photographs in and direct the people to the Commission's website for more information.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Questioned if that is something that can be developed over the summer with the students.

SARA BARTELLONI: Stated she is not advising the students come to a meeting in April, as there is testing and AP's, but she will reach out to some students to bring to the May meeting.

MIKE GINCH: Suggested having the students come to the meeting with ideas.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated she has not heard whether Eric Model was appointed as Borough Historian and the Mayor stated he would consider Eric. Advised it appeared as if he had other people he would consider, but he did not advise the Commission who they would be so the members could have input. Stated there are not a lot of people in town who know enough about the history of River Edge to be a Borough Historian.

DARA CHINIGO: Questioned what the Mayor did say.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised the Mayor said he was considering Eric, but he implied there were others.

DARA CHINIGO: Questioned how he implied that, as he would need to know in order to ask the Mayor for an answer.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated she will forward him the email she received from the Mayor and she did not receive an answer whether the Borough required a formal letter from the Commission requesting Eric be appointed.

DARA CHINIGO: Suggested sending the letter.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised she met with Alan Negreann, who stated the budget will formally be approved in April, which included the hours for the professional archivist and the librarian, the required workshops and the printer, for a total budget of \$4,744.95.

MIKE GINCH: Advised they are trying to find ways to supplement the budget, by having a fundraiser.

DARA CHINIGO: Questioned if you looked into getting a Grant.

MIKE GINCH: Stated Grants do not come around that often.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised the CLG has their own specific grants and most of the time they are not matching, however, the last time they applied for a grant it required a lot of information and they are very strict with the requirements.

DARA CHINIGO: Stated there are lot of federal government grants available, the website is grants.gov, which can be searched for grants and advised Gotheimer and his office will help any municipality or association of a municipality with the application process.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated that years ago the Borough had a professional grant writer and they received grants through them, but grants are very time consuming.

DARA CHINIGO: Stated the bulk of the work would still have to be done by someone on the Commission and it would be a good project for the students to research grants that are available.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Agreed, but stated the grants take months to put together and you need the time. Stated they will advise Mr. Carter in April once they officially have the money to start with the archiving. Advised she needs the workshops the members attended this year to put together the required CLG annual report. Stated to check out the on-line story Eric Model wrote about the photo from a former Rive Edge resident on the Zabriskie Farm.

Next Oral Histories to be considered are Don Herrick and Joan Sullivan

Next Meeting April 26, 2017