

***HISTORIC COMMISSION
MINUTES
May 23, 2018
8:05 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>Eric Model</u>	X	
<u>John Cookson</u>	X	
<u>Liaison Dario Chinigo</u>		X
<u>Deborah Powell</u>	X	

AUDIENCE:

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated at the last meeting they decided to go ahead with the two historic designations now that the Historic Component to the Master Plan is completed. Questioned if anyone had any comments regarding the letter she plans to send to the Mayor. Indicated the Mayor and Council are going to ask what other things in the future they want to designate. She read the letter from the County with the recommendations into the minutes. Stated before she sends the letter to the Council, she believes they need to discuss what the Commission wants to designate in the future.

MIKE GINCH: Stated one of the questions he would ask if he was on the Council is why you want to designate these homes and streetscapes and what do you have other than an address. Questioned if there is other information you can present to the Council.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Indicated they have all that information.

MIKE GINCH: Suggested presenting that information to the Council and questioned if the Council is going to prioritize the list.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated prioritizing the list is the Commission's job. Indicated she has the 1980's survey and the 2000 survey that has the houses in detail, plus why they are important. Advised she wanted to show everyone the list in case they want to visit the sites.

MIKE GINCH: Questioned if you were going to present the Council with a complete list or a list of what you want to eventually designate.

MIKE GINCH: Suggested to put more focus on what you want to give to the Council, such as updated photographs.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Questioned if anyone has any questions about any of the items on the list. Stated the Commission may want to consider designating the AJ Bogert house on Kinderkamack Road.

MIKE GINCH: Questioned the status of the train station.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised the train station is a State owned property and when they wanted to designate the train station in the past, NJ Transit said they can designate it, but they will do what they want with the station.

MIKE GINCH: Questioned since the station is in River Edge, can you still locally designate it.

DEBORAH POWELL: Stated if that was the case, that would also apply to the Steuben House, Campbell Christie House and the Demarest House, as they are located in River Edge.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised at the time NJ Transit spent \$800,000 fixing up the station, but we were told if we designate the station they would not fix it up, so we did not designate it but kept it on the list.

MIKE GINCH: Stated if it is worthy of protection, nothing should stop you from locally designating it, and to try to get them to designate the station on the State level.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised they can designate it, but they were told NJ Transit was going to ignore the designation. Stated NJ Transit did do everything the Commission asked them do on the station when they were renovating it.

DEBORAH POWELL: Stated it seems like it was a historic restoration.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated it was a historic restoration, but it was not through the County or the State, but through NJ Transit as they owned the station.

MIKE GINCH: Suggested to look at the station for what it is now, as there are very few structures in town that are historic.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated it is historic and the name of River Edge came from the station. Advised the Town will not have anything to do with this.

ERIC MODEL: Advised you are taking inventory as to what is historically significant and said it is sad because of politics or bureaucracy this cannot be deemed the way it should be, but that doesn't preclude the Commission from doing its job by saying these are historically significant.

DEBORAH POWELL: Stated the administration has changed and suggested putting it in there and let the Council say no.

ERIC MODEL: Indicated they may be more favorable if the case is made the right way that NJ Transit should be designated, while the last administration did not have that sensitivity.

MIKE GINCH: Stated everyone is thinking too much of consequences and suggested to forget that and see what is important and make a recommendation to the Borough and let them decide.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised Bergen County and everyone else that looked at the station said the station is historic, but NJ Transit does not want it designated. Stated she does not have a problem including the train station, and questioned who they want to deal with the others on the list. Advised the survey has a picture of the house.

DEBORAH POWELL: Advised the Preservation Committee wanted to borrow the survey and put it on line, but she heard the County was working on doing that.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised Sara was working with them on that and they did put the County Survey online but not with the photographs.

DEBORAH POWELL: Stated the photographs are not very good.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Indicated the County said they were working on it.

ERIC MODEL: Stated the list is helpful to say this is a sampling, but it is an ongoing process and the Commission is going to stay on top of it, but the Commission wants to make the Council aware that it is important to the Commission there is a process of designation. He further indicated if the Council wants, we can single out those two houses, but he does not want to justify the list to the Council, but just wants to advise them the Commission is interested in working on the process of designations with the Council and will work with them together as to what ultimately will be done.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Questioned if you want to give the Council the list.

ERIC MODEL: Stated saying something is historically significant is far short of saying we want these items designated. We are just saying to them these are of interest to us and we will work with you what should be designated.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised that is what she is stating in the letter to the Council by identifying historically significant sights in the Borough based on the County's survey 1980-2000, which differs from the 13 sites locally designated and that we will meet with the Council to discuss and review.

ERIC MODEL: Stated it will not be just one meeting but will be an ongoing process.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated she still is not sure what you want to do when they meet with the Council.

MIKE GINCH: Stated to start prioritizing the list.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Suggested to talk to the Council about the two homes they want to designate and let them know there will be others in the future, but it will not be the entire list.

ERIC MODEL: Stated even if you wanted to designate the entire list, you do not have the resources to do it.

DEBORAH POWELL: Indicated you may get a lot of flak from homeowners who do not want people telling them what they can and cannot do, so you need to think of what kind of arguments and benefits you will say the home has.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised the stone house that Michael mentioned to get the County involved with, the County said they would come to a meeting because they feel that strongly about Dutch stone houses.

MIKE GINCH: Stated at one point the County specified the list of houses they deemed the most at risk that were the most significant and that Spring Valley Avenue house was at the top of the list. He stated they came to the conclusion to tell the Council members what they think, they are the elected officials and let them decide if they want to take the steps to designate.

JOHN COOKSON: Questioned if the homeowner has changed anything in the house.

MIKE GINCH: Advised there was a permit in the window last summer and the owner replaced all the clapboard siding with synthetic material, but it looked exactly the same way it did, with the same color. Stated if the building department did not have the home on their radar, to be designated, they would not have known to question anything.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised she did ask the building department secretary if she could tell them even if the house is not on the list and she indicated she would.

DEBORAH POWELL: Stated with the new laws, you no longer need a permit to change the siding or the roof on your home, so those homes would no longer come before the building department. Stated since the homeowner did the appropriate job, questioned what the homeowner's objection was to designating the home, and if it was whether the homeowner felt the Commission was qualified to review his home.

MIKE GINCH: Advised the homeowner thinks it will diminish his property value.

JOHN COOKSON: Questioned if you know how much longer he will be living in that house.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Indicated the homeowner can say he will keep it the same, but if the house is sold the new homeowner can change the house or knock it down, if the house is not designated. Stated they will discuss the list in general terms with the Council.

ERIC MODEL: Advised he can send them a letter stating they are interested in engaging the process of designations again and are sending them a list of historical significant

properties that has been assembled in the past and on an ongoing basis the Commission will review it and trim it down and will work with the Council.

MIKE GINCH: Suggested stating that the list does not represent every house.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated she will send the letter to Ed and see when the Council can meet. Questioned John if he could look into the Instagram page the Record has and see what they have pertaining to River Edge.

JOHN COOKSON: Stated he does not know a lot about the town and its history and questioned where he can go to get information to write the posts, as he has one book on the history of River Edge. Advised he would like to do a Fourth of July post about the parade and that he has a picture of Mayor Bogert marching in the parade, but does not know where to get information about Mayor Bogert.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised that is what they are working on with the archives. Stated she will have George Carter come to the June meeting and will ask him to look through the archives.

MIKE GINCH: Suggested coming up with milestone dates for John to have.

JOHN COOKSON: Stated he has a full post written for the Demarest family, with a picture of the house, as they were the first ones here.

DEBORAH POWELL: Indicated it is misleading to show that house because when the house was moved, they placed that early date stone from the Church on the Green in Hackensack, so they put the stone in front of the Demarest House which was never there and the house was never that age.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Questioned if you have a resume from Jim Hoogstrate.

MIKE GINCH: Advised he is in, but he has been busy.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised she spoke with Alan regarding Clarendon Court and he advised he sent the letter to the Attorney as he thinks the Clarendon Court sign are the right-of-way, not town property.

MIKE GINCH: Questioned if it is County property.

ERIC MODEL: Indicated there is no town sign on the street, one of the signs would be in lieu of the green sign.

MIKE GINCH: Advised he contacted some places about the signs and the enamel sign was \$1000.

DEBORAH POWELL: Indicated she thought you were going to paint what was already there.

MIKE GINCH: Advised the wood is rotten and the whole thing needs to be reconstructed.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised they received letters from a couple of people that live on Clarendon Court questioning if they can do anything about the signs, so they must think the town owns the sign. Indicated even if it is right-of-way, she still believes they need to do something about the sign. Questioned Mike if there are Scouts that may want to work on the other kiosks in the summer.

MIKE GINCH: Questioned John if he could approach the couple of Scouts to see if they want to work on the kiosks.

JOHN COOKSON: State there are a couple of Scouts working on projects and he can ask them.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Indicated there is money in the budget for what you need for the kiosks.

MIKE GINCH: Stated he will go to the DPW.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated they will work with John on the Instagram. Questioned Eric about the short stories he was putting online.

ERIC MODEL: Advised they did one on Feathers that is posted.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Questioned Deborah for an update on New Bridge Landing.

DEBORAH POWELL: Advised they asked the County for a building survey of the Campbell Christie House to look for exterior problems and wanted the slate to the back door leveled for handicap access. Stated she gave a talk on the collections list on Sunday and had a pretty good turnout. Advised it is very exciting there and she spends a lot of time there holding meetings. Stated they have an annual dinner on the 14th and Jim will give a talk about the geography on Thursday and centers on why New Bridge is important. Advised they do not have any date with the Planning Board for the new museum building.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Questioned if they are ready to go with them with the plans.

DEBORAH POWELL: Stated they are waiting on their lawyer and the planning board to schedule.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Questioned if they are hoping to break ground in September.

DEBORAH POWELL: Indicated she does not know, depends on what happens.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated it depends on the plans and if they want to make any changes.

ERIC MODEL: Stated his family goes back to 1951 and he has old photographs of July 4th parades and when you were asking for artifacts and stories, suggested requesting people who have block parties send them the photographs and eventually it will become part of the story archives. Questioned to do a headline for yourselves to pass along to the Borough, for the time capsule, as to why this 4th of July parade is distinguishable from the 50 other parades, or the 50 that will take place, which does take a lot of work.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated she can have John put it on Instagram and Sara can put it on Facebook.

DEBORAH POWELL: Questioned what the name of the Facebook page is.

JOHN COOKSON: Advised it should be River Edge History, the same name as the Instagram page.

MIKE GINCH: Questioned if you can tell how many people are looking at it.

DEBORAH POWELL: Questioned if someone is pulling photographs on each listing and how can it be evaluated.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated the County has information, minus the picture, but she has the pictures, which are not that good.

DEBORAH POWELL: Advised someone should take a good photograph and put it with the description, as it is not a crazy amount of photographs that need to be taken.

MIKE GINCH: Indicated he can start taking the photographs.

DEBORAH POWELL: It should be set up with a page and a photograph and address, and from there you can plug in the survey.

MIKE GINCH: Stated the County provided the format in a non-editable pdf format.

DEBORAH POWELL: Stated you can print it out, put the photograph on it, scan it and create a new pdf.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated she did not understand why they gave them a survey that you could not edit.

DEBORAH POWELL: Advised you do not want people to be able to change information.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated she will look for the best photographs she has.

DEBORAH POWELL: Questioned if they should each take a segment.

MIKE GINCH: Stated he will try to take the photographs.

Next meeting June 28th.