

**HISTORIC COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**November 2017**

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>Eric Model</u>	X	
<u>John Cookson</u>	X	
<u>Elizabeth McGinty</u>		X

AUDIENCE: Deborah Power

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Advised she spoke with the Borough Planner regarding the status of the Historic Component to the Master Plan who advised they renewed the Historic Component but not sure if they came up with a formal Resolution. Questioned once it is formalized, if they want to historically designate those two homes.

**MIKE GINCH:** Stated it was left off at putting it in the Council's hands.

**DEBORAH POWER:** Questioned what the Resolution states.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Explained what happened with the two homes that were being historically designated, but could not be done as the Historic Component to the Master Plan was not renewed.

**MIKE GINCH:** Advised that one of the homeowner's of those two houses are against his house being designated and the other homeowner is okay with his house being designated.

**DEBORAH POWER:** Indicated she did hear something about that and believed he had objections to the oversight.

**MIKE GINCH:** Advised the homeowner believed it would reduce his property value.

**DEBORAH POWER:** Stated the house is on a big lot.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Advised their concern was if he sold the house, the house could be knocked down because it is a double lot.

**MIKE GINCH:** Explained the homeowner will probably put up a fight about the designation and they were debating whether to wait until there is more favorability from the Council members to do the designations, but indicated ultimately they decided to put it on the Council and let them make the decision.

**DEBORAH POWER:** Stated it brings you out in front of the public as being a problem or failing.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Advised that is what Historic Commissions do and they were also getting pressure from Trenton as to why the house was not historically designated.

**MIKE GINCH:** Indicated the County identified this particular house as one of the most significant and in danger because it was not protected locally.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Advised it is the only house, except for the houses in the Steuben area, that is on the National and State registry.

**MIKE GINCH:** Questioned Deborah how she thinks they should proceed with that type of obstacle.

**DEBORAH POWER:** Stated they have a Preservation Committee with the Historic Society and she can see what their opinion on it is, as some of them have more experience with designating properties.

**SARA BARTELLONI:** Indicated her thought was to get this in place first and possibly designate one house at a time.

**ERIC MODEL:** Stated he thought it would help define what the Commissions tasks and rolls are to start with, but based upon what was relayed to him it would be a hit or miss with the designations.

**DEBORAH POWER:** Advised since the one house is on a large lot, if it became available it could be expanded by adjoining properties if those properties become available.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Stated to wait until they get the formal Resolution and can decide in January what they want to do with the designations.

**ERIC MODEL:** Stated in light of what did or did not happen in the south end of town, development and all, the thought was River Edge is not Hackensack or Paramus and if you are going to argue we should not develop the south end for whatever reason, the flip side is we should preserve whatever is here.

**DEBORAH POWELL:** Stated it was her understanding besides the New Bridge area, that area of town could be developed aggressively, with only a height variance, and the trade-off for that was the north side was to stay the same.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Stated she only wanted to see how everyone would want to proceed with the designations once the Resolution was passed. Advised they have to

reach out to the community for some material for the archives and indicated they should go to SCORE. Questioned if anyone has any contacts with the local newspapers to place another article in the paper for people to clean out their attics for material and if something should be put on Facebook or Instagram.

**ERIC MODEL:** Suggested putting some photographs in the glass display case in the library, with a poster that states "do you have something like this in your house?" to get artifacts from the residents.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Indicated she is sure the Library would not have a problem with that.

**ERIC MODEL:** Stated it would be nice to make copies of the artifacts that we already have and put them in the schools, churches and the stores.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Advised she checked with the Record to see what kind of archives they have and they indicated they have stuff that goes back to the 1970s and questioned if anyone wants to look to see what the Record has from the 1970s pertaining to River Edge.

**ERIC MODEL:** Suggested doing some research at the Johnson Library.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Stated he could see if the Johnson Library has anything, as they use to have the stuff from the Bergen County Historical Society. Questioned why the library no longer houses the material from the Bergen County Historical Society.

**DEBORAH POWELL:** Advised early on some of the Society members wanted to keep the collections in Hackensack, but in the 1990's the Johnson Library asked them to remove the collection, which was then placed in Felician College for a few years and finally ended at up Bergen Community College.

**MIKE GINCH:** Questioned if eventually the collection will fit in the new building.

**DEBORAH POWELL:** Stated they like the relationship they have with the Bergen Community College.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Questioned if anyone wants to reach out to the Town News to place an article.

**ERIC MODEL:** Stated he will make a call.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Advised they are not really receptive, but they can try again. Thanked everyone for their cooperation at River Edge Day. Advised Margaret came to the last meeting and discussed what was done with the archiving.

**MIKE GINCH:** Stated what needs to be done is to digitize it, so it can be accessed on line, which is a different budget and priority.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Questioned if it is not expensive to do, or is it just the time involved.

**MIKE GINCH:** Advised taking it from an access database to making it accessible, you need someone to program that, which is not an easy thing to do.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Indicated she asked Judy O'Connell if they have any maps from the 1950s, and Margaret and George said they have 3, one from 1947, 1952 and 1959.

**ERIC MODEL:** Questioned if there are any artifacts that can be digitized, as his mother has a needle point of the town and he would like to possibly donate that.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Advised they do have space for that stuff in the library. Stated before the end of the year everyone needs to do one work shop and herself and Mary went to a work shop at the Steuben House regarding Camp Merritt. Indicated she has a list of WWI Veteran's that live in River Edge and questioned if they can check to see if any of them went to Camp Merritt.

**DEBORAH POWELL:** Stated the man that spoke at the Steuben House may be aware if there is a list.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Said it may be an interesting thing to see, because of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Camp Merritt. Questioned Deborah if they had an interest in having archives on some Veterans.

**DEBORAH POWELL:** Advised they have a lot of interested in Veterans, but they do not have a room set aside for that.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Advised everyone to look over the budget, and she included \$150.00 to paint the kiosks and questioned Mike if that was enough money for the kiosks.

**MIKE GINCH:** Stated that DPW paid for the paint for the kiosks.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Stated Mike did a great job painting the kiosks on Manning and if he would like a letter from the Historic Commission thanking the Scouts and questioned if the Scouts would want to do the other kiosks or should she ask DPW.

**MIKE GINCH:** Indicated that would be a project for the Scouts if anyone needs a service project, but that is a big project.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Questioned how much money should she put that in the budget.

**MIKE GINCH:** Advised the wording should be more generic, as they have the Clarendon Court sign to redo, as well.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Questioned how much money should she put in.

**MIKE GINCH:** Indicated he needs to take a closer look at the Clarendon sign.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Questioned if \$150.00 is enough.

**MIKE GINCH:** Believes it is enough.

**SARA BARTELLONI:** Stated they used exterior paint in the past on the sign and it held up.

**MIKE GINCH:** Indicated he needs to see if the wood is okay.

**SARA BARTELLONI:** Stated using exterior paint should hold up.

**MIKE GINCH:** Stated the signs are not historic themselves.

**SARA BARTELLONI:** Advised the signs are not historic themselves but they are designated.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Indicated they are designated, but the signs can be replaced. Questioned if you want to continue with the 120 hours divided up between Margaret and George, along with \$120 for archive supplies and the budget is \$150.00 more than last year.

**MIKE GINCH:** Suggested removing the computer case, to keep the budget the same as last year.

**SARA BARTELLONI:** Agreed to keep the budget the same and remove the computer case.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Roll call approving the budget, minus the computer case.

MIKE: Yes

JOHN: Yes

ERIC: Yes

SARA: Yes

PHYLLIS: Yes

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Questioned if the Facebook page is up and running.

**SARA BARTELLONI:** Stated it is up and she sent the password to Phyllis.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Stated the Record mentioned the Morris Canal which transported goods for Bergen County, but did not pass through Bergen County and questioned if that is something the Commission is interested in, or if there are any other topics.

**DEBORAH POWELL:** Stated she donated 3 books to the Library, but not sure if Kevin mentioned anything to do with the Morris Canal.

**ERIC MODEL:** Stated Kevin was an integral part of the town.

**SARA BARTELLONI:** Questioned if Kevin wrote anything specifically about Roosevelt School.

**DEBORAH POWELL:** Stated she does not.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Advised the Cultural Center is going to do the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Roosevelt School and it could be highlighted in this Commission as well.

**DEBORAH POWELL:** Advised Kevin made notes of a lot of things and she could go through it to see if there is anything on Roosevelt School.

**SARA BARTELLONI:** Advised they have You Tube videos that are attachable, and the oral histories can be uploaded, along with some of the images.

Break in the Tape.

**JOHN COOKSON:** Advised he wrote about the Demarest family and for the post in December he would like to post something Christmas related, besides the New Bridge Landing.

**ERIC MODEL:** Questioned if the Fire Department has old pictures of Santa Clause.

**JOHN COOKSON:** Suggested putting up old pictures of Christmas in River Edge.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Indicated she believes Elizabeth will take over doing the oral histories and thought Mary's suggestion of doing the oral history of former Mayors of River Edge was a good idea.

**DEBORAH POWELL:** Questioned what the best practice for sharing posts on the 2 different Facebook pages.

**SARA BARTELLONI:** If you were on the Bergen County Historical page, you can click share and send it.

**DEBORAH POWELL:** Stated she wants it to look fresh, and not just reposted.

**SARA BARTELLONI:** Indicated the hope is to drive traffic to get people to like their page, not to join River Edge Community Group, because River Edge Community would have to follow Historic Commission in order for it to show up in their feed. Indicated she wanted to generate people in town who are Facebook users to follow the Historic Commission.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Questioned Eric what was happening with the research on Feathers.

**ERIC MODEL:** Stated he will link some of the archives, as Feathers use to be the Village Inn.

**MIKE GINCH:** Stated besides the structure, outside of New York City, Feathers was a front runner for a Gay bar.

**ERIC MODEL:** Indicated he thinks there is a significant story there.

INAUDIBLE

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Advised Eric to decide which angle he is going to take with the Feather's story. Stated the Academy in Hackensack has a virtual Ellis Island, and is not sure if that can be done at the Cultural Center, but was thinking of doing that at the Cultural Center with text of people that already came from Ellis Island from River Edge adding new immigrants that came to town. Questioned if they want to be a part of that exhibit, by doing some research.

**SARA BARATELLONI:** Indicated she thinks it is a great idea, but she cannot commit to it at this time.

**ERIC MODEL:** Stated it does not have to be just people who came from Ellis Island.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Agreed that it can be expanded. Questioned if anyone has any other topic to add to next year.

**JOHN COOKSON:** Suggested a good way to get young people to get interested in River Edge history is to bring exhibits of photos and archives to the high school and set it up at the library.

INAUDIBLE

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Advised there is no meeting in December and questioned Deborah about New Bridge Landing update.

**DEBORAH POWELL:** Advised the Society did not lay a wreath on Veteran's Day at the monument and they were going to do it by the WWI plaque. Indicated she took some of the exhibits and had them enlarged, which will be up through Christmas, and includes some samplers. Advised they have a Christmas program on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, along Christmas tree sales. Stated they had a women who donated a portrait of Mary Robinson, that was in bad disrepair, which was repaired and will be exhibited in the Spring.

**PHYLLIS ANGELO:** Advised John they will have some photographs for him in January.

**Next meeting January 24, 2018**