

*HISTORIC COMMISSION
MINUTES*

September 27, 2017

8:04 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>Elizabeth McGinty</u>	X	
<u>Liaison Dario Chinigo</u>	X	

AUDIENCE: John Cookson

Deborah Powell

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Questioned Dario if they made any progress on revising the Historic Component to the Master Plan, so the Commission can designate the two houses they have been trying to designate five years ago.

DARIO CHINIGO: Advised the Borough Attorney is still working on it.

MARY DONOHUE: Stated their CLG can be in jeopardy.

DARIO CHINIGO: Questioned if there was a deadline he should be made aware of, so he can report back to the Borough Attorney, if the CLG is in jeopardy.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised in order to be a CLG, you have to have a Historic Component to the Master Plan that lists the historic homes.

MARY DONOHUE: Stated they also received a \$19,000 Grant from the CLG.

DARIO CHINIGO: Stated he had brought these issues up before, and is asking for something more specific to bring to the Borough's attention.

MARY DONOHUE: Stated she would advise them the Historic Commission earned the grant, which it would not have been eligible for if they were not a CLG and there may be more they would consider, but would not be eligible.

MIKE GINCH: Questioned if there is a deadline, which would indicate the sense of urgency.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised when the yearly statement is completed for the CLG, she does not believe she can tell them for the third time they are still working on the Historic Component.

MIKE GINCH: Questioned if it is possible if this is not done by the end of the year, you could lose the status of the CLG.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Correct.

DARIO CHINIGO: Suggested the Commission writing a letter to the Council and lay out these issues and consider appearing before the Board in October to advise them you have 2 months until December and you are worrying about this happening, which is why you are pressing the Board.

MEMBER: Questioned what two houses are going to be designated.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised the Blair House on the corner of Kinderkamack and Continental, and the River Edge Hotel also known as the DeBaun- Demarest on 56 Spring Valley Ave. are both pre-Revolutionary War. That is not an issue that both houses are not historically relevant, there needs to be a formal approval of the Historic Component of the Master Plan. Stated they will write a letter.

DARIO CHINIGO: Indicated they should consider going to a council meeting, as the Borough Attorney will be there.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated they will see if they can make it. Advised they did an oral history of Barbara Christensen, but she does not have a computer, and questioned if a disc could be made for her so she could see it.

ELIZABETH MCGINTY: Stated Sara uploaded that and it is on You Tube.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated she would like her to have a copy that she could watch, as she has asked her for a copy.

ELIZABETH MCGINTY: Questioned if she has a DVD player.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated she does not know but she will call her and find out. Stated John did a special project over the summer. John created a media page for students, questioned if she should give the different things they are doing to John so he can put them on Facebook.

JOHN COOKSON: Stated if there are events they can be put on Facebook and if he started this month he could mention the events to his history teacher. Questioned if the Bergen County Historical Society has a page.

MEMBER: Stated it has a Facebook page.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Introduced Deborah Powell as the new Historian. Questioned if there is something Deborah would like to see the Commission do, or become a resource for the Commission like Kevin was.

DEBORAH POWELL: Stated the Bergen County Historical Society is entering a really exciting period. Advised they hope to break ground on the Museum building in the spring, the event programming is growing, membership is growing. Advised Williamsburg has a lot of problems, as they over expanded and went beyond their needs and are having financial trouble. In spite of school groups not going to the site and the lack of jobs for future Historians, the public is interested. The site is the best run site in the State and they are available to provide more visitor services and once the Museum building is open they will have public bathrooms and more space for the Museum collection. Stated Kevin was working on a New Bridge book and she found work Kevin was doing, some on River Edge, and is thinking of publishing that as a reference book. Stated they do fundraising for the site, they have new postcards and they have the library collection at Bergen County College. They do programming throughout the year and the site brochure. Their brochure with the "Famous Faces of New Bridge" is very powerful and Andre drew the portrait.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Suggested getting her some more brochures so she can have them available for River Edge Day.

MIKE GINCH: Questioned when did Andre draw the photos?

DEBORAH POWELL: Advised he drew it the night before he was hung, so he drew himself. Stated her latest project is developing a map to get people into the area, showing one side is New Bridge and Riverside, as a destination. She started populating it with history and trying to make it kid friendly so it will have a "Where's Waldo" effect by placing things to look for. The other side has New Bridge Center and goes all the way down to the Marriot and up to the waterworks. Stated she is trying to get 70 Ads at \$100 an Ad and they get 100 maps.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Questioned if it included the historic designated sites in River Edge as well.

DEBORAH POWELL: Questioned if she is talking about the gates.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised there are 12 designated sites in River Edge.

DEBORAH POWELL: Questioned if they are on the website.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated she is not sure if they are on the website but they are historically designated. Advised Deborah to let her know if there is anything she would like them to put out on River Edge Day.

MIKE GINCH: Told Deborah that he appreciates her updates on Facebook and all the pictures she posts.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised Joan Kristan formally resigned from the Commission, so there is a space on the Commission and indicated John needs to decide if he wants to be a full member or if he wants to continue to be a non-voting member, as they would have to submit the name to the Mayor.

JOHN COOKSON: Stated he is still interested in becoming a full member and will submit a letter to the Mayor.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated she and Mary will submit a letter on his behalf and they did check with the Borough Attorney who advised age is not problem.

JOHN COOKSON: Questioned what they would need to know about him to put in the letter to the Mayor.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Suggested to list his Eagle Scout project and his interests, including taking advanced American History courses. Questioned if anything is happening on River Edge Day.

DARIO CHINIGO: Indicated he has nothing else to say other than everyone will be having a table.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised Liz will help out for an hour, Mary and herself will work an hour and questioned Mike if he would be able to do an hour on River Edge Day.

MIKE GINCH: Indicated he would not be able to.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Questioned Eric if he would be able to take an hour.

ERIC MODEL: Stated he could.

JOHN COOKSON: Said he could help as well.

ELIZABETH McGINTY: Stated she could do the first hour.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated Mary and herself will work from 2-3 and needs someone to work from 3-4.

MARY DONOHUE: Stated to give them the books, as all the money that is generated by the sale of the books goes to the Museum fund.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised the Bergen County Preservation Society wanted them to mention Camp Merit is going to be celebrating its 100 Anniversary and suggested going through the archives to see which Veterans went to Camp Merit. Questioned Deborah if she has a contact with the American Legion to see if any Veterans of WWI went to Camp Merit. Stated she will have Mr. Carter come to the next meeting and questioned if you want to continue with archiving in the budget for 2018.

MIKE GINCH: Indicated that we have the money.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated they have the money to finish, but she is talking about next year. Indicated she will work out a budget for the next meeting to continue with archiving. Asked Mike for an update on the kiosks.

MIKE GINCH: Advised they decided to do one set as it did not seem it needed a lot of work and they got a lot of cooperation from the DPW and they bought the paint, as well. Stated it took 21 hours to scrape the kiosks himself, as the children could not scrape the paint.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Questioned if we were going to paint them anymore.

MIKE GINCH: Indicated they are exposed right now, but they will be painted.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised Sara created a Facebook page for the Commission using the gmail account. Questioned Eric about his online stories.

ERIC MODEL: Advised he would blog occasionally on The Patch.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Questioned if anyone wants to take over the Oral History project, since Joan is no longer on the Commission. Stated they discussed getting Joe Magieri.

ELIZABETH McGINTY: Stated she did speak with him, but he is not well, his wife is not doing well and he is occupied with taking care of his wife, so he seems to be putting this off.

MARY DONOHUE: Questioned if you would be interested in doing Kevin Rigby, as he would be interesting.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Questioned Sara if you could link the Facebook page with Instagram.

SARA BARTELLONI: Stated you should be able to.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Questioned if anyone is willing to take on the project of doing an Oral History of someone.

ERIC MODEL: Stated two thoughts come to mind in terms of the facility at the high school to coordinate it and, rather than a particular individual, have the residents tell a story when they bring things from their attic so it can be videotaped and done in a group setting, in case there are people who want to add a story.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Questioned where that could be done.

ERIC MODEL: Suggested either the high school or the Cultural Center.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Indicated it could be held in River Dell in the TV Studio.

MIKE GINCH: Suggested the larger room in the Library.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised she needs to change the date of the October meeting to the third Wednesday of the month.

ERIC MODEL: Stated you need to prioritize who you want to take an oral history from, as people are no longer around.

ERIC MODEL: Suggested trying to do something on River Edge Day or July 4th by asking people if they have a story and have a camera you can turn on and record their story.

MIKE GINCH: Stated to come up with a format so you know what questions to ask.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated there are certain core questions you can ask everybody.

Next meeting will be held on October 18, 2017.