

HISTORIC COMMISSION

MINUTES

MAY 27, 2015

8:15 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
<u>Phyllis Angelo</u>	X	
<u>Mary Donohue</u>	X	
<u>Judi Sussman</u>		X
<u>Sara Theresa Bartelloni</u>		X
<u>Mike Ginch</u>	X	
<u>Joan Kristan</u>		X
<u>Liaison Ellen Busteed</u>	X	

AUDIENCE: Kevin Wright

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised the Planning Board is going over the new draft of the Historic Component of the Master Plan. Stated she was asked one question from the Mayor at the meeting about adding to the Campbell Christie House/Tavern to the Historic Component but she would have to ask New Bridge Landing first. Questioned Kevin if he wants to add the word Tavern.

KEVIN WRIGHT: Stated it is alright with him.

MARY DONOHUE: Inaudible. Stated New Bridge Landing would not be allowed to serve liquor if they held events.

KEVIN WRIGHT: Advised the opposition by the legislators would have a problem with New Bridge Landing getting a liquor license.

MIKE GINCH: Questioned who makes the decision on liquor licenses.

KEVIN WRIGHT: Stated it depends on the criteria the State establishes.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised she will also advise the Mayor the outdoor kitchen is not historic. Advised the Planning Board did not have any problem with the Historic Component. Stated the Mayor advised after it is advertised, they will vote on it and then the Committee can go ahead and continue the designation process of the other two houses.

ELLEN BUSTEED: Questioned if they are going to advertise that for the June meeting.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated they did not say when.

KEVIN WRIGHT: Stated there are only 3 houses in River Edge that predate the Revolution, and two houses are not included.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Questioned if they should be included and that one of the houses has been altered.

KEVIN WRIGHT: Stated he would never judge a house without being inside it.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated you mentioned the house on Kinderkamack and Wayne was altered.

KEVIN WRIGHT: Advised the Christian Deiter (?) House and Heritage House are the two houses. Stated that designation should not be "piece meal" and that a survey should be done for the entire Borough before deciding what buildings are worthy of preservation and then designate either those buildings or districts.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated it is difficult to designate districts. Advised they made it very clear in the Historic Component that there may be other historic homes they would consider for designation at some point, so they would not have to amend the Master Plan every time they want to designate another home.

MIKE GINCH: Questioned Kevin if he would concentrate his efforts on the Heritage House.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised right now that is an apartment house.

KEVIN WRIGHT: Stated the exterior of the house was renovated in 1940, which is still eligible for designation.

ELLEN BUSTEED: Questioned, since the house is already listed on the National and State Registry, if the local designation would be more limited.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated for a private home the National and State Registry will not stop him from knocking the house down. Advised the Grant the Commission received from the State was budgeted for 6 months but since it has taken so long, there is only 3 months to complete the work. Advised part of the reason they got the Grant was because of New Bridge Landing and they need Kevin to identify some of the photographs and to have some text to add to the library website about New Bridge Landing.

KEVIN WRIGHT: Advised the Society's website is full of information and they can link to that website.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Questioned if there was anything Kevin would like to add.

KEVIN WRIGHT: Advised he sent the history of the town to the Borough for the inclusion on the website years ago.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Requested Kevin to get that information to her as that can be placed onto the library website. Advised the idea of the Grant was so people could research River Edge history at the library.

KEVIN WRIGHT: Stated that River Edge has been home to the Bergen County Historical Society most significant properties in the United States since 1939 and every event at New Bridge Landing propagates the history of River Edge.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Indicated they need to advertise it more through the Library and the Grant.

MIKE GINCH: Questioned Kevin if he has anything they can scan or photograph which they may not have access to elsewhere to include in the project.

KEVIN WRIGHT: Advised the Historical Society has policies on using its material and they have many artifacts from River Edge but stated once you begin to accept objects, you accept the responsibility to care for it forever and if you are not primarily created or focused as museum entities, never enter that pathway as it is a source of greater loss.

MIKE GINCH: Questioned if there was something he would like include in their "micro" effort.

KEVIN WRIGHT: Stated to avoid duplication and suggested going to the Community College which houses all of the documents. Advised to focus on the public records and what is unique.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised they found minutes from the town from 1894, which need to be transcribed, which are kept in a safe in Borough Hall. Advised they explored the Open Space Grant again but the property or site has to be on the National or State Registry in order to use Grant monies. Advised Mary and herself are going to the Library Board Meeting in June to advise them what the Committee is doing and what the vision is for the future.

ELLEN BUSTEED: Questioned what is meant by the future, space needs or equipment needs.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated it is space needs and there should be a designated space, as well as a computer. Advised they will have a table for July 4th.

MARY DONOHUE: Advised the historic baseball game at New Bridge Landing will be July 11 and the wine festival is scheduled for sometime in September.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:10