

HISTORIC COMMISSION

MINUTES

February 26, 2014

8:08 p.m.

<u>ATTENDANCE:</u>	<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>Harold DeYoung</u>	X	
<u>Mike Ginch</u>	X	
<u>Joan Kristan</u>	X	
<u>Liaison Ellen Busted</u>		X

AUDIENCE: Peter Dunsay

Joan arrived after the minutes were presented.

MARY DONOHUE: Motion to accept the November minutes.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Taking a vote on acceptance of the minutes –

Mary – Yes Phyllis Yes

Mike – Yes

Harry – Yes

Sara - Yes

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated they could not have gotten the Grant in on time without Mary's help.

MIKE GINCH: Questioned when you would hear about the Application.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised the Town received a formal acknowledgment that the Application was received and that the Town should hear by the end of April. Stated the Town will not pay Mr. Carter the money for the database until they see the database put together. Questioned if Mr. Carter should have a category for the survey.

SARA BARTELLONI: Suggested asking Mr. Carter to create a category for surveyed properties.

MIKE GINCH: Suggested to let Mr. Carter deliver a tangible database in order to get the money from the Borough, and it can be customized at a later date.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated he will customize the database the way the Commission wants.

SARA BARTELLONI: Stated she is not sure if it is worth paying Mr. Carter to type up a survey, since the Commission already has a survey.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised that the Library staff will eventually be able to enter information into the system, once it is put into place and that Daragh is arranging for two staff members to meet Mr. Carter to review Oradell's database.

MIKE GINCH: Stated he may want to scan the photographs, rather than the Library staff, for quality reasons. Advised Daragh showed him where he wants to place the Historic file cabinets in the Library and that the public will have access to the room.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated that once it is established, Daragh will make it safe and accessible.

MIKE GINCH: Indicated he believed the information would be locked up until it is needed and that he did not think there will be a work station set-up.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised that she is meeting with Alan Negreann on March 12th at 10:00 a.m. to go over the scope of what information is in the Borough's possession, and how they want to handle the information. Indicated she is not sure if there will be any old Minutes.

MARY DONOHUE: Indicated she believed this would be a good project for an Eagle Scout.

SARA BARTELLONI: Advised that any Eagle Scout project has to involve a large group of people.

PETER DUNSAY: Advised that an individual going for Eagle Scout is required to coordinate the Troop, who range from 11 to 18 years old.

MIKE GINCH: Indicated Boy Scouts that are earning Merit Badges have different categories they can choose from and one category is Historical.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated she likes the idea of using the Boy Scouts or even the National Honor Society to help.

SARA BARTELLONI: Stated she would like to use the National Honor Society, as they are under-utilized, however it may be difficult as River Dell is a River Edge/Oradell

school and we are asking for assistance for a River Edge Commission. She indicated she can ask the River Edge honor students if they want to volunteer.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated that Mary's idea is a good idea, as it is too expensive to have Mr. Carter summarize the old Minutes.

SARA BARTELLONI: Indicated she would suggest it at the next Girl Scout Troop Leaders meeting to see if they have any interest and will ask the High School Principal if she could ask the honor society.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised they should hold back until the Commission gets the Grant.

MIKE GINCH: Stated even if the Commission does not get the Grant, it is a way to get all the information secured and into one place.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated if they do not get the Grant, they can do the work incrementally to get it started. Advised Mike and Sara worked on what would be needed to supplement the Grant and that the Grant would be only for the physical time, but capital items could not be part of the Grant.

MIKE GINCH: Advised they would be able to purchase something within the budget to satisfy their needs, such as a scanner. Stated that a legal size scanner should be considered as anything bigger is very expensive.

SARA BERTELLONI: Stated she believes a legal size scanner would be adequate as any information received will be in that size range.

MIKE GINCH: Stated the Library has a large scanner if necessary.

MARY DONOHUE: Questioned what the total amount was.

MIKE GINCH: Indicated it was over \$2,000 and does not recall if the Grant would cover archival folders.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Indicated they requested the folders and also indicated some concern about where Daragh will put the records.

SARA BARTELLONI: Stated that if the information draws enough attention, Daragh will find a proper location.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated there are plenty of people researching the history of River Edge, which is the reason why she started this project.

MIKE GINCH: Questioned when the Budget will be approved.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised the Budget will be finished at the end of March, so possibly July 1st. Also advised they never received a response to the letter forwarded to the Town Council on September 23, 2013 questioning when they will resume the Historic Designation process and questioned if another letter should be forwarded to the Council.

MEMBER: Suggested waiting before sending the letter.

SARA BARTELLONI: Questioned whether a "Commission" is required to wait for permission to act, as opposed to a "Committee".

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised the Commission has the right to historically designate, but the Town has to approve the historic designation.

MARY DONOHUE: Suggested writing a strong letter immediately, to see if a response is received before the next meeting.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated they need to have a response by the March meeting. Advised the Council did ask the attorney for the Planning Board to give them a legal opinion as to how to proceed in this situation.

MARY DONOHUE: Suggested to advise the Council that their inaction is preventing the Commission from doing their work.

MIKE GINCH: Questioned if the Commission can speak to the Planning Board Attorney directly.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated that she believed you would be able to, however the new liaison to the Historic Commission is Ellen Busted and would ask her to bring this matter up with the Council.

SARA BARTELLONI: Stated the Council needs to push the Planning Board, which Ellen Busted was a member, and should have a sense of what is happening.

JOAN KRISTEN: Stated it was her impression the Council would not act on the historic designation until the Historic Component of the Master Plan was there.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated she does not know why it is the problem of the Commission, when the Town lost documents, the Historic Component to the Master Plan

MIKE GINCH: Suggested waiting until the next meeting to hear from Ellen Busted.

SARA BARTELLONI: Questioned if it is determined that there is not a Historic Component to the Master Plan and the Borough does not want a Historic Component, what does it mean to this Commission.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Indicated that the Commission could not be a CLG and could not get the Grant and she further stated that all Historic Commissions have to have a Historic Component to the Master Plan even if they are not CLG's.

MARY DONOHUE: Stated she does not understand why Trenton cannot send a copy of the Commission's file.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Indicated Trenton advised her they do not have it computerized. She will try to get an update from the County on the progress of editing and digitizing of the historical survey, so they do not have to do it.

MIKE GINCH: Questioned if they were going to scan it or transcribe it.

SARA BARTELLONI: Advised they were going to recreate it and the Borough of River Edge was going to be the "guinea pigs."

MIKE GINCH: Questioned how that came about.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Indicated she was not sure, but she will follow through and see what the County has done as far as the survey.

SARA BARTELLONI: Stated the survey is already scanned and that it was sent as part of the Grant.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Questioned how oral histories are coming along.

JOAN KRISTAN: Stated that she will start up on the oral histories in May.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated that Don Herrick would be the next logical person to interview. Questioned if there was any news on New Bridge Landing.

MARY DONOHUE: Stated October 17, 2014 they will be celebrating 350th Anniversary of the founding of Bergen County, with a big fundraiser. Indicated this should be supported by River Edge as it would benefit the town.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:15 pm