

HARRY DeYOUNG: Not sure how that area of Kinderkamack stayed residential for so long. The visual changes will creep in, especially since there are older residents that live in that area and who may be looking to sell.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Part of our mission is to document the historic structures and the town in general, as it changes.

YOSHI AONO: There is no official color picture of the NJ train station, as there are no colored documents of this building. As a Historical Commission, we should have an official color. I am attempting to get an accurate color; it is mainly a light green color.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: There is a picture from Syracuse University's archives; however it is not in color. I asked NJ Transit if they have any archival photographs, but they said they did not. The original color was from the Erie Railroad.

MEMBER: Have there been so much renovation that there are no original structures that paint samples may be taken from?

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Until the work was done on the train station, there had been nothing done other than painting of the station.

SARA BARTELLONI: Technology exists to determine the underlying color if there was a swatch available.

MEMBER: Before the renovation, was there a sample taken?

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Vince D'Amore took something to Palmer Brothers, but not sure if anything was done scientific with the swatch.

SARA BARTELLONI: The computer reads it.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: It is possible to obtain a sample from inside the train station. I will look into it to see if something can be done. Our big project was the restoration of the station, which took approximately 5 years before NJ Transit would consider doing it. Once we were ready to do the project, NJ Transit had no money. Finally, 2 years ago NJ Transit had the budget to fix the train station. The biggest headache was to get NJ Transit to put in a bathroom, which they did put in. The original grill is still inside. Yoshi researched the finials that were on top of the train station and made a picture, which NJ Transit did duplicate. NJ Transit owns the station, and River Edge only leased the station, which was the big obstacle in getting Grants to do the project. The State would not give a Grant for a project on a piece of property that the town did not own. After the project was done, we decided to put in a historical display to educate people about the history of the station.

Regarding the photograph journal, we could put something in the Patch or the Town News asking if any residents have pictures of the strip, where Hoffman Koos was located.

SARA BARTELLONI: We also discussed about placing something in the Church bulletins.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Eric Model does a blog on the Patch regarding different things in town, and he might have some photographs or knowledge. I will invite him to the next meeting. The State wants historic guidelines for the historic properties that we have. It is a big job, but it would be worth the effort and help with the clarity for the owners of the historical property. Do we want to take on this project?

HARRY DE YOUNG: We can use what Closter did as a template.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: We can look at what Closter has done. We need to know if that would be correct for us. The River Edge Hotel is worth historically designating and the owner of the Blair House is acceptable to the designation.

MICHAEL GINCH: What is the advantage of the homeowner if the house was designated?

PHYLLIS ANGELO: We have been pushing for tax abatement for the historically designated homes, but as of now there is not one.

MICHAEL GINCH: Is that something the Town could do?

PHYLLIS ANGELO: It is possible the Town could do that. We could ask them.

MICHAEL GINCH: When that designation is placed on the house, owners are restricted with what they can do.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: The designation has nothing to do with the inside of the house. You can put an addition on the house, but the outside would have to match the exterior. The historic designation is strictly exterior. Yes the exterior is restricted. I do not believe Joe Picone would have a problem with designating his house.

SARA BARTELLONI: What is the process of designating a home?

PHYLLIS ANGELO: The homeowners would be sent a letter to advise them of our intention to designate their home, a meeting would have to be held with the River Edge Attorney attending and then the Commission would make their recommendation. We do not have the final recommendation. Our recommendation then goes to the Borough Council, who makes the final decision.

SARA BARTELLONI: Should we make a motion to start the process?

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Yes. How did the Zoning Board handle the process?

HARRY DeYOUNG: The applicant sends notices to the surrounding neighbors of what work they intend to do, along with the date and time of the hearing before the Zoning Board in case they want to appear.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: I would rather give the homeowners an initial letter advising them that we plan on holding a hearing regarding the designation of their home, before the letter is sent advising when to appear for the formal hearing.

MICHAEL GINCH: Can the designation take place without their consent and they would be bound by the decision?

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Yes.

MEMBER: Why hasn't it been done yet?

PHYLLIS ANGELO: The Commission has not been around that long and we worked on what we felt was more important, such as the Steuben House, the cobble stone streets, the kiosks and the train station. Once you see the surveys, there are only a dozen houses in River Edge that we would want to designate. There is not enough historical background to justify it for most homes in River Edge.

TAPE ENDED