



**HISTORIC COMMISSION
MINUTES
June 29, 2011
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>Yoshi Aono</u>	X	
<u>Sara Theresa Bartelloni</u>	X	
<u>Sandy Moscaritolo</u>		

Members of Audience:

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Sara brought with her the historical display for the Commission to see prior to being placed into the train station.

SARA BARTELLONI: The display is divided into two parts.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: It looks terrific.

MARY DONOHUE: Will the display go in the ground?

PHYLLIS ANGELO: The display will go in a frame at the station, with a plexi-glass on top of it.

DISCUSSION HELD ABOUT THE DISPLAY

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Yoshi was going to take pictures of the commercial strips in town in order to have a historical record.

YOSHI AONO: I started taking the pictures at the north end of town. I am not sure if I should take a picture of the Funeral Home.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: The Beaugard Funeral Home is a landmark. I am not sure if it was a private home before it was a funeral home.

MARY DONOHUE: The Beaugard Funeral Home has been there since the 1950's.

YOSHI AONO: Also, I have been doing some research and by September I should have an idea as to the color of the railroad station.

MARY DONOHUE: Are there photographs of the old Comfort Cole Station, which is where CVS is now?

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Possibly in Naomi Howitt's book. I will check.

MARY DONOHUE: It would be interesting to see how the Churches in River Edge have changed.

YOSHI AONO: Even the Church signs have changed.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: The most radical change is the First Congregational Church, as that was originally a stone building.

MARY DONOHUE: There was a synagogue by McDonald's, which I believe burnt down.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: We cannot do anything about the past, but going forward we can have photographs of the commercial strips in case they change.

MARY DONOHUE: We can check with the River Edge Diner, as they have wonderful pictures. This is a wonderful project, to have a pictorial record of what the town looked like through the years.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: We can do research over the summer regarding the River Edge Hotel, so it can be designated on the local historical registry, as well as the Blair House.

MARY DONOHUE: Maybe there is a parish history in the Cultural Society.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: There is one for St. Peter's and the First Congregational. Grace Lutheran Church may have changed.

MARY DONOHUE: When St. Peter's was built, the bells were donated by Grace Lutheran Church.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: I don't believe anyone is aware of that. That information should be written down for historical purposes. Sara is still working on the disc regarding the historical buildings.

SARA BARTELLONI: My intention was to play around with the first disc and have it completed by the fall.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Once that is complete, we can put it on our website.

SARA BARTELLONI: I would like to get it onto the website as the various parts are finished.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: We would like to have something that could be continually updated.

MARY DONOHUE: Another important event in Town was the name change of North Hackensack to New Bridge Landing of River Edge. Yoshi took wonderful pictures that day.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: We could add that to the historic survey, as one train station is on the survey.

YOSHI AONO: What was the old train station's name?

PHYLLIS ANGELO: It was originally the Cherry Hill Station, then it became North Hackensack. Regarding Grant money, since River Edge is not going to do the 20% matching Grant, I did reach out to New Milford to see if they would be interested in joining in with River Edge. They were willing to inquire at their next meeting if it was possible. I still need to contact Teaneck to see if they would be willing to do it as well. Possibly by September we can put something together with the three towns.

MARY DONOHUE: Another interesting place to have pictures of in Town is the Yeshiva, as it was Safeco Insurance.

SARA BARTELLONI: A notice could be placed in the library and the Town News inquiring whether people have old photographs of places in River Edge.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: We could put something on the River Dell Patch as well. In the future, New Bridge Landing may be able to combine records and photographs in the new museum, which is something this Commission could help with. I received a request from the Town asking our opinion as to whether there should be a referendum for Open Space.

MARY DONOHUE: Read an article regarding the Open Space referendum.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: I received a letter from Alan Negreann to attend a meeting in July, where this will be brought up. I would like Mary to advise if the Open Space is something that would help with Grants for New Bridge Landing.

MARY DONOHUE: I will speak to Kevin.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: We have some things which could come under this, such as the cobblestone streets and the kiosks. The Steuben House and the New Bridge Landing would fall under our section, as those lands were most likely purchased through a historic grant. I will keep everyone informed. Mary mentioned we should have a Resolution

stating we would be in support of the Open Space Grants. Who would like to propose that today?

MARY DONOHUE: The River Edge Historic Commission supports the funding of the Open Space for the referendum, using the percentage that the Freeholders put forth in 2011.

YOSHI AONO: Second.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: I will take a roll call vote: Mary Donohue – yes; Yoshi Aono – yes; Sara Bartelloni – yes; Phyllis Angelo – Yes. We are in support of the Open Space funding for 2011.

MARY DONOHUE: We should add that we approve whatever use the River Edge Council finds a need for within that funding.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: They want to know if we would be supportive of the funding. We don't have to get into the specifics, unless you feel that New Bridge Landing could use some of that funding, as they are in River Edge and are historically designated.

SARA BARTELLONI: Did we find out when the American Legion was built?

PHYLLIS ANGELO: No, however I do not feel it is historic.

MARY DONOHUE: The building may not be historic however, it is in a historic park.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: The command post is historic, as it is named after a WWI Veteran. The last minutes of the Mayor and Council meeting indicated the Committee is looking into the whole package of the American Legion, the Cultural Center and the Library as one large Senior Center. The original purpose of keeping that parcel was because it is in the center of Town. Mary would like to say a few words about the fundraising for the New Bridge Landing.

MARY DONOHUE: The Bergen County Historical Society is holding a campaign to raise funds to build a museum/library in the area that was purchased from the Bergen County Auto Parts.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: How would you go about making a donation?

MARY DONOHUE: Check the Bergen County Historical Society website. We would like to start building by Spring of 2012.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: I want to mention that Bill Lindsley, former Borough Attorney, has passed away. He worked with the Historic Commission and was very helpful and professional. He will be missed.

MARY DONOHUE: We should also advise the Council that we are going to lose the CLG rating, which means we will not qualify for funding.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: In order to have a CLG you must have someone that has design/architect knowledge on the Commission, and we no longer have Vince and Steve Cordts resigned. Sara mentioned that she has some credentials.

SARA BARTELLONI: My one undergraduate degree was art and architectural history, focusing on American Architecture.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Before we close, would you want change your standing? Without that we will lose our designation as a CLG.

SARA BARTELLONI: If it is helpful.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: I will speak with the Mayor. I need to reschedule the September meeting, possibly for the third Wednesday of the month.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:00 p.m.