

**HISTORIC COMMISSION
MINUTES
March 28, 2012
8:15 p.m.**

	<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>Harold DeYoung</u>		X
<u>Mike Ginch</u>	X	
<u>Kevin Wright (Consultant)</u>		X
<u>Liaison Councilman Porco</u>		X

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Questioned if any one was able to see the Historical Display in the Train Station.

SARA BARTELLONI: Stated she looked in the window, as the train station was locked.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Indicated she will call to see when it is open for everyone to go see the display.

MARY DONOHUE: Suggested having a meeting there one evening.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated the Blair House and the River Edge Hotel will be historically designated. The Blair House needs to be checked to see if it is co-owned. Yoshi took pictures of the Blair House and the River Edge Hotel, which is also known as the Demarest House, as a prelude to designating a home is to take present day pictures. The River Edge Hotel house is already on the National Registry and the State Registry. Kevin Wright gave us the research on the River Edge Hotel house.

MIKE GINCH: It was mentioned that house was one of the County's top 12 historically designated houses.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Yes, but the owners still may not like having their house locally designated. The research shows that the purchase of the Debaun- Demarest House in 1893, and converting it to a Hotel cost \$3,000. At the last meeting we discussed the Town is putting in new doors on the Public Safety Building and the Municipal Building. Initially they wanted to put a glass door on the Municipal Building, but that building is historically designated, so they are now putting in a metal door that looks like the one that is there presently. A glass door will be put on the Public Safety Building. The Town will be getting a Grant for both doors.

Indicated she did not have a chance to talk to Closter regarding their historic survey, however it would be easier for this Commission to use Closter's template than to start one of its own.

SARA BARTELLONI: Commented on Closter's web-site.

MARY DONOHUE: Questioned what we are looking for from Closter.

SARA BARTELLONI: Suggested asking Closter first for their approval to use their format and if their PDF format can be put into a Word Document.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Does not believe Closter will have a problem with this Committee using their format as this is another Historic Commission. Indicated that when a local designation is made, Sam Cereste, Esq., the Borough Attorney, needs to be present at the meeting. Certain criteria needs to be done before the meeting can be scheduled. A date needs to be set when everyone is available, looking at possibly last Wednesday in May.

YOSHI AONO: Questioned what would happen if the homeowners decline to have their home locally designated.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: If we decide the house should be designated after the hearing, and the homeowners do not want it designated, we take a vote which then goes to the Council Chambers, along with our recommendation. The homeowners can appear before the Council and give testimony; however the Council ultimately has the final decision. In the past the Council has gone along with our recommendations. The River Edge Hotel is on the national registry, so it may be difficult for the homeowners to object on historic grounds.

MIKE GINCH: Believed this is the most historic house in town.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Yes, except for the Steuben House. The River Edge Hotel and the Blair House are very historic. There is another house in Town I would consider designating at another time, which is the Voorhis house on Kinderkamack Road. This house is presently up for sale. A local designation is the only designation that prevents a historical home from being knocked down, as opposed to a National or State designation. Questioned how the survey is coming along.

SARA BARTELLONI: Indicated that the survey involves a lot of typing and is looking to see how the packet can be divided up among the members.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Indicated everyone is willing to help and that people will have more time in the summer to work on it.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Yoshi was doing commercial surveys and he has the disc with the pictures of the American Legion.

YOSHI AONO: 2 CD's were made of the American Legion building. You can download the photos and create some type of file with them.

SARA BARTELLONI: Once we decide where we are going to upload these files to, we can attach something like a written transcript to the video.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: If there are other people we want to interview for the video, we should start putting a list together.

MARY DONOHUE: It would be interesting to have these people interviewed in their homes, so you can see their background.

SARA BARTELLONI: The next step would be to line up one or two people to interview and prepare a list of questions.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated that the Commission would need to research the people who we want to interview before coming up with the questions.

MARY DONOHUE: Indicated that when she moved into town in 1950, her taxes were \$287/year and that Midland Avenue was a dirt road. Midland became paved when they opened the Garden State Parkway.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Suggested interviewing Mary Donohue. Indicated that Mary was one of the founding members of St. Peter's.

MIKE GINCH: A teacher who taught in town for 45 years would be an interesting perspective.

SARA BARTELLONI: There is more flexibility in the video equipment; therefore it will be easy to video tape at the person's home.

MARY DONOHUE: State that it would be interesting to get the history of the churches in town. For example, citizens of River Edge were against building Temple Shalom. There was also opposition against building St. Peter's.

SARA BARTELLONI: Indicated she will look through Rutgers site at the oral histories to get an idea of the questions they asked, in order to help this Commission come up with questions. Stated that Mary can be the test subject.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Advised that Yoshi will be working on taking photographs the commercial buildings now that the weather is nice.

YOSHI AONO: Indicated that there is not much progress at Hoffman Koos.

SARA BARTELLONI: State she believed the ground has been treated.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: Stated she thought they were going to be soliciting bids for the property but that appears to be pushed back. Advised that the Commission will hold off on the Matching Grants this year for budget reasons. In the past the CLG grants had no matching aspect. She also stated that she would like to work on the project of combining the historical records. She believes they should be placed in the New Bridge Landing Museum.

BREAK IN TAPE

MARY DONOHUE: ... look like a mini Williamsburg. All the facilities belong to us. The little strip will be used as a parking lot. We would like get a business that sells coffees and teas, as 44,000 cars pass by that place. We have been told we could have an offer where the business could build the building to our specifications and pay us \$100,000 as a lease for 20 years. Having a commercial business involved would mean they would have 2 or 3 bathrooms and would have parking. We want to make New Bridge Landing a self-sustaining facility so the State does not have to give us any money. Kathy Donovan loved the idea.

PHYLLIS ANGELO: What is happening with the money that you need for the museum?

MARY DONOHUE: We need approximately \$350,000.00. We have approximately \$80,000.00. We will be having a meeting with Senator Gordon and Senator Weinberg and Kathy Donovan, along with the Mayor. Advised there will be a naturalization ceremony in the fall which all are invited to attend.

MEETING ADJOURNED. Next meeting April 25th.