

**MINUTES**  
**CLOSTER HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**  
**MONDAY, May 29, 2013 8:08 P.M.**

- A. Call to order** – Statement of Open Public Meetings Act
- B. Pledge of Allegiance**
- C. Attendance: Present: Orlando Tobia, Bobbie Bouton-Goldberg, Tim Adriance, Jennifer Rothschild, Francesca Macchiavelli, William J. Martin, Irene Stella, John Kashwick**  
**Absent: Stuart Tray, Jayne Rubenfeld-Waldron**
- D. Minutes** – April minutes MSC Bouton-Goldberg, Macchiavelli, – approved.
- E. Open to Public:** No one was present
- F. Hearings - None**
- G. Correspondence** – None
- H. Old Business**
  - 1. Active future proposals for designation
    - a. Closter Borough Hall – nomination report not completed yet
    - b. Nagel/Auryansen Cemetery – Jennifer asks Tim for a digital copy of his written history so that it can be put into nomination format
    - c. Vervalen House 151 West Street – discussion about contacts with the homeowner
    - d. David Durie House 285 Schraalenburgh Road – postponed for the time being
    - e. St. Paul’s Lutheran Church – will compose letter stating “pros and cons” of historic designation, and include pamphlet (Bobbie, Jennifer)
    - f. High Street District – Irene is working on a letter; next Talks with Toby will concern High Street. Bobbie Bouton Goldberg took photos of houses and wrote down the dates when they were possibly built. She asks if the eastern end of High should be included, where the affordable “Colonial Cottages” were built by Sophie Speake Maple. Discussion. Suggestion that this be considered as a distinct district, to be considered in the future. Discussion about alternative idea, such as an exhibit or an historical sign about the neighborhood. Discussion about connection to women’s history (in Closter), during women’s history month. Discussion about Sophia Speakes Maple
  - 2. Lustron and Depot – No hearings scheduled before Planning Board and Council yet
  - 2. Pamphlet for Realtors, Public – Review. Suggestion to put the seal up in the blank spot, then use photos, or using a new photograph of the seal behind the council dais, then use half-tones in showing the image. William Martin explains. Bobbie alternatively suggests the Railroad Depot be on the front cover. Tim states that then the town will be associated only with the railroad, whereas the seal stands for the whole town. Need to use photoshop. Discussion about wording, e.g. change “how do I begin the process?” to “How do I apply for a COA?”

Other minor changes suggested. Suggestion that ivory paper be used. MSC Bobbie Bouton Goldberg, William J. Martin, to approve the pamphlet with the minor changes. Unanimous approval.

3. Talks with Toby – Next session: 1 p.m. Wednesday May 22<sup>nd</sup> - topic will be High Street

#### **I. Liaison Reports**

1. Council – John Kashwick \$3090.00 budget for this year
2. Planning Board – Irene Stella – plans for Closter Plaza re-development available for review

#### **J. New Business**

1. Haring/Trautwein House 485 Piermont Rd.
2. J. Jordan/Parsells House 439 Piermont Rd.
3. Auryansen House 450 Piermont Rd.

Mr. Adriance reports that the Trautwein house isn't threatened by the sale of the farm stand, but all three of these (above) houses are within close proximity of each other and date to 1<sup>st</sup> third of 19<sup>th</sup> Century or earlier. Discussion as to whether the Commission wants to investigate these houses further as to what historic fabric remains. J. Jordan house is a stone house completely encapsulated by other siding, and is only visible from the restaurant parking lot. It is a first-period stone settlement dwelling that is 20 feet square – one room. East of 439 Piermont Road was a sand pit and a quarry, off Gilletta Court in Closter and also up the hill into Alpine. Discussion about “Closter stone” and where it was used – e.g. Closter National Bank and one of the original police headquarter buildings; William J. Martin notes that many buildings in Westwood also used that stone. Tim notes that there was also a Spring in that vicinity. Question as to whether this should be considered as a District. Earliest map notation was on the coastal survey (1840)

3. Goals for 2013 – Sign at the Closter Plaza and topics discussed, above; Digitizing Orlando Tobia's collection

4. Continuing education – Jennifer attended one-day conference on historic property tax credits (NJ and federal law proposed)

5. Other – Jennifer reports on the one-day conference regarding tax credit in Plainfield and distributed a one—page summary

6. Closter Plaza Sign – William J. Martin is waiting for a template for a nomination report; Jennifer will email it to him. Bobbie Bouton Goldberg notes that a letter should be sent to the planning board ASAP; Tim and Bobbie note that many people in Closter are concerned about what is going to happen to the sign; John notes that the current sign ordinance would not allow such height for a sign, so the developer might want to keep it.

7. Showcases – Irene asks if we can still use the cases; decision is that if there is still a case available for the library, that it would be a good way to display the Society collection

**K. Adjournment MSC Jennifer Rothschild, Bouton-Goldberg, at 9:22 p.m.**