

CLOSTER HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Monday, July 28, 2014 8:00 PM

A. Mr. Adriance called the meeting to order at 8:04 p.m. and made a statement of the Open Public Meetings Act, noting that the meeting was duly advertised.

B. Pledge of Allegiance – called by Mr. Adriance

C. Attendance : Present: Tim Adriance, Jennifer Rothschild, Irene Stella, Bobbie Bouton Goldberg, Joel Zelnik, Jayne Rubinfeld-Waldron, Orlando Tobia, Susan McTigue, John Kashwick, Council Liaison

Absent: Mr. Martin (excused)

D. The minutes of June 2014 were accepted without corrections (MSC Zelnik, Stella)

E. Open to Public – Mr. William Cahill, 248 Harrington Avenue, Closter spoke about roof repairs to his home. He requests that the Chair send a letter stating that he does not require a Certificate of Appropriateness. He states that it's all interior and structural and that nothing on the exterior will be changed. Mr. Adriance discusses the matter with Mr. Cahill and determines that nothing will be visible to the public, and he states that he will send a notice to the Construction Code Official.

F. Correspondence – see separate sheet – letter from Bergen County Historical Society regarding its gala on October 15th celebrating NJ 350th anniversary

H. Old Business

1. Properties being researched for potential historic designation:

A. Nagel/Auryansen Cemetery – no report

B. High Street District – Ms. Bouton Golberg reports that Ms. Rubinfeld-Waldron has been researching deeds. Further research is being done in the History of Bergen County volumes regarding early residents on High Street.

C. G. Trautwein-Haring Area - no report

D. Vervalen House 151 West St. – no report

E. McBain Farm – no report

2. Talks with Toby – There are no talks scheduled in the Summer. Mr. Tobia reports some expressed interest from people, who have inquired as to when his next talk will take place. Mr. Adriance asked if he had spoken to the students at Closter schools; Mr. Tobia further reports that he has given talks at Tenakill and Hillside Schools. Discussion. Ms. Stella suggests having a planning meeting for future talks, and proposes holding them at a different venue. She will call

a meeting at her home soon.

3. Closter Hall of Fame – Mr. Zelnik reports that August 29th would be the 85th Birthday of Bill Evans, who lived on Maple Street. He would like to do a program commemorating his birthday at which the poster would be introduced, and this could generate media coverage that would allow the public to see the kind of work that the Commission does. He notes that preservation efforts, including Borough Hall and the Lustron House, have been recent topics of interest. Discussion between Ms. Rothschild, Mr. Adriance, Ms. Stella and Mr. Zelnik about putting the poster together, how to get the graphic design, and location for the event. Discussion about how to handle expenses.

I. Liaison Reports – as related to the HPC’s purview, only

1. Council – John Kashwick (Update on Lustron Property, Borough Hall, etc.) Mr. Kashwick reports that the application has been perfected and the hearing will take place in September before the Zoning Board. Mr. Zelnik states that he has spoken with Attorney David Watkins. Mr. Watkins would be willing to speak to the HPC. Mr. Adriance states that he is welcome to attend and speak as a member of the public, but that the Commission has no jurisdiction over the matter. The Borough Hall ordinance will be announced at the August 9th meeting of the Council. Village Hall: Seven units will be Section 8 housing, and the remainder will be condominiums.

2. Planning Board – Irene Stella - There have been few meetings. She reports that work on the Closter Plaza redevelopment should begin soon.

3. Other – no reports

J. New Business

1. HICKORY LANE ROAD WORK. Mr. Adriance reports regarding the proposed roadwork to Hickory Lane. It needs to be repaved. Since it is a roadway dating back to 1710, it isn’t similar to modern roads: this is likely how the original plans to cut trees, straighten and widen the road came about. Currently the Council is revisiting the parameters of the project and are not proposing widening, straightening or taking down trees unless necessary. Mr. Adriance relays the various means by which the roadway might be physically repaired. Currently, water tends to rage down Hickory Lane during downpours. The Council asked the Borough Engineer to come up with specifications to repave the road and to add curbing of slanted cobblestone at a 15 degree pitch. The mayor had discussed the matter with Mr. Adriance and has also discussed the matter with the Borough Engineer. Ms. Rothschild asks if the SHPO has been notified. Discussion about role of SHPO (State Historic Preservation Office) with respect to reviewing work done by a governmental agency (aka Closter DPW/Engineer) that might affect state-registered properties. Mr. Adriance asks Ms. Rothschild to confirm the legalities so that a letter can be sent to the Borough Engineer and Council regarding their obligations in the future with respect to Closter’s state-registered properties.

2. Designation of historic roads - Mr. Adriance states that the Mayor has suggested, at one of the Council meetings, that the Commission designate Hickory Lane if the Commission feels that it is historic. If designated, then the HPC would have the authority to review any

alterations. Ms. Bouton-Goldberg shows the write-up in the Bergen County Sites Survey regarding Hickory Lane. **MSC Bouton-Goldberg and Stella to move forward with pursuing historic designation of Hickory Lane.** Mr. Adriance distributes a study of the various historic maps that include Hickory Lane, that he has prepared. He states that someone should go to the Bergen County archives and get the 1841 and 1847 road returns. (Blanch Avenue is map D-63). Ms. Stella asks for the HPC to consider what impact this might have/what fears the homeowners along Hickory Lane might have regarding this designation. Discussion. Mr. Zelnik asks if there is a precedent for designation of a road in the state of New Jersey and whether there were consequences to such designation. **MSC Stella, Bouton-Goldberg that Ms. Rothschild put the historic write-ups into the format for a nomination report and resolution.** Discussion about also proposing designation of Blanche Avenue. Harvard Street is another historic road that should be considered.

3. Continuing education – Susan McTigue, recipient of scholarship, reports on her experience at the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions’ Forum that took place on July 16-20 in Philadelphia. She distributes a one-page report on the presentations that she attended. Topics included hosting an archaeological dig in the community, where/how to store historic archives, and she reports about a conversation with Closter Public Library Director Ruth Rando about using library space, and about getting local High School students involved in historic preservation. Discussion.

4. Other – Ms. Stella shows a photo in the Northern Valley Press of Tim Adriance presenting the Nagle/Auryansen Cemetery maintenance award to Devon Sampson. She distributes a one-page summary of a plan called “**Year of the Stone House**” that outlines a series of programs that would focus on Closter’s stone houses. Discussion. Ms. Stella proposes that the HPC maintain a list of designated property owners in Closter and that the HPC communicate with them at least once per year.

Ms. Bouton-Goldberg states that the next event should be a “slideshow” of historic High Street by William J. Martin. Susan McTigue and she have sent him photographs. This should take place in the Fall.

Ms. McTigue asks how the HPC is going forward with scanning of Orlando Tobia’s collection. Ms. Stella asks how much physical space his collection requires. Ms. Rothschild offers to begin some scanning.

Mr. Adriance reports that he has been in communication with an historic homeowner; he has encouraged this property owner to attend our HPC meetings. Discussion about how the “histpres” emails get distributed.

K. Adjournment - MSC to adjourn, Rothschild, Zelnik at 9:45 p.m.