

MINUTES
CLOSTER HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Monday, March 24, 2014
8:00 PM

A. Call to order – Statement of Open Public Meetings Act – Mr. Adriance called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Attendance

Present: Orlando Tobia, Bobbie Bouton Goldberg, Susan McTigue, Jayne Rubenfeld Waldron, Irene Stella, Tim Adriance, John Kashwick, Joel Zelnik, William J. Martin, Jennifer Rothschild

D. Minutes – February 2014 – MSG Stella, Tobia to approve the minutes Mr. Martin abstained; otherwise unanimous approval

E. Open to Public – No one wished to speak

F. Correspondence – History Breakfast tomorrow; Notification from Bergen County Office of Cultural and Historic Affairs cancelling Awards Ceremony in May due to construction, NJ's 350th Anniversary activities, and for other reasons. WJM reports that a date has been chosen for 2015. He also reports that Carol Messer and Robin Brown will be retiring.

G. Oath of Office - Susan McTigue – sworn in by John Kashwick, Council Liaison

H. Certificate of Appropriateness Hearing: Lee property 269 Piermont Rd. Stephanie Spencer Lee, homeowner, was sworn in by Mr. Adriance. Ms. Lee testifies that the porch has begun to rot; the porch is rarely used, but is used by those visiting, e.g. the mailman. Repairs need to be addressed. This application also seeks railings for safety reasons. Mr. Adriance draws attention to the “cove molding” that is proposed. He shows photographs from HABS. He notes that this molding is not present on the base cap or top of columns. Mr. Adriance advises that this detail should be omitted from the porch. Mr. Adriance also asks about the risers and treads as to what species of wood is going to be used. He recommends mahogany. Ms. Bouton Goldberg asks about what sort of railing is being considered. Ms. Lee states that this has not been designed yet. She seeks guidance. Mr. Adriance states that the house falls under the Rehabilitation subcode of the UCC that allows for variation from the norms, except for life safety issues. Mr. Adriance surmises that the Building Inspector will require a railing. Ms. Stella asks if such a feature has existed for more than 50 years, is it required? Mr. Martin states that he believes that the railing is exempt because of the house's historic status. He suggests a lower railing, perhaps 30 inches. Ms. Lee states that the railing will only be on the stairs. Ms. Bouton Goldberg asks what if the homeowner wants a railing? Mr. Adriance explains that the railing only needs to be on the stairs, for safety reasons. Mr. Tobia states that the building inspector required him to add on a piece to an existing railing for safety reasons, on a rental house that he owns. Mr. Adriance states that the drawing does not reflect the design of the railing. He offers that she return with plans, or that a design be agreed upon tonight. He asks if

she is agreeable to a 2X4 vertical with a 2” railing out of treated material. Mr. Martin suggests that the inspector might not require it, so perhaps it should be left up to the homeowner and the architect if he does require it. Ms. Stella suggests that the railing, alone, would be a minor application. Ms. Bouton states that the Commission can trust the judgment of Mr. Radick. Mr. Adriance explains the procedure for a minor approval. The architect will submit to Mr. Adriance as chairman, and he can make the decision as to whether it meets the appropriateness standards. Ms. Stella has questions: Is the step tread size to code and does it need to be? Mr. Adriance states that it’s 1” by 11” and this meets code. Ms. Stella asks if we would have permitted TREX? Mr. Martin states that this product looks very different than wood. Mr. Adriance states that with synthetic materials, they oftentimes do not have the full depth of mahogany. Ms. Stella asks what “treads to be CE” means? And what “radius at tread” means? Mr. Adriance explains, but advises that if CE means cedar, that a different wood be used. He recommends mahogany for the treads. Discussion about base vents on columns. MSC Stella, Bouton Goldberg to approve the plans with the recommendations of the Board that were articulated. Unanimous approval.

Old Business

I. 1. Active subjects

A. Closter Borough Hall – Designation report was submitted and is on the mail list for the March 26th meeting, dated March 20th. Ms. Stella raises the issue of Open Space monies for designated properties. Mr. Kashwick states that it’s stated in the referendum that the Borough passed, that monies be used on “historic” structures, and the current Borough Attorney interprets this to mean “designated” structures or those on the state and national registers.

B. Nagel/Auryansen Cemetery – Mr. Adriance continues working on the nomination report. Ms. Stella asks if anyone has visited the historic cemetery recently. Mr. Adriance states that he was there when a lot of snow was still on the ground. He states that everything looks fine.

C. High Street District – Ms. Bouton Goldberg states that she continues to do research.

D. G. Trautwein-Haring Area – no report

E. Vervalen House 151 West St. – no report

2. Talks with Toby – Tomorrow night’s talk is about Noteworthy Women in Closter. Ms. Stella reports that dates will need to be changed for May and June. April’s date is the 30th. Mr. Tobia states that any Wednesday that is chosen will work for him.

3. Cemetery Award – Ms. Stella suggests a date in May

4. Closter Hall of Fame – Mr. Zelnik states that several events are coming up, such as the NJ 350th anniversary. He states that this year would be Bill Evan’s 85th birthday. To make the work that the HPC is doing more visible to the public, this will preserve a legacy of the people that have lived in Closter and succeeded in various fields. He distributes the NJ Hall of Fame Nomination Guidelines as a prototype. Looking at the categories, there are five specific ones.

He states that Mr. Martin has developed a prototype for “Phase One” of the map. Mr. Zelnik proposes a wall in the Closter Public Library on which to display it. He shows a map that was designed by Mr. Martin. The names could be placed on the map. This is an opportunity to allow the Commission to present itself to the public. Mr. Zelnik wishes to get a Bergen County Blue Marker for Bill Evan’s house; he also plans to look into commissioning a U.S. Postage Stamp with Bill Evan’s image.

J. Liaison Reports

1. Council – John Kashwick – Budget was introduced at the last meeting; final vote will be in first meeting in April. Mr. Kashwick states that the Lustron’s fate will be now heard before the Planning Board. The adjacent neighbor purchased the Lustron property and wishes redivision and subdivision of the lot(s).

2. Planning Board – Irene Stella – no report

3. Other

K. New Business

1. 2013 report and 2014 goals – draft distributed. Mr. Adriance states that the Borough is looking for Commissions to submit an article; he suggests that these accomplishments be re-drafted into an article. He asks if this report should be submitted to the mayor and council. Asks for motion to accept this as a report to the mayor and Council. MSC Bouton Goldberg, Zelnik to accept the concepts contained in this draft; Ms. Rothschild will revise it into a report. Goals: this is a draft. Ms. Bouton Goldberg wants to add researching the Schaller house on Old Closter Dock and the house at the corner of Anderson Avenue and Closter Dock Road.

2. Continuing education – report all classes. Ms. Stella states that we are each supposed to take at least one course per year. She reports that the SHPO has sent a communication that the CLG program Forum in Philadelphia is offering scholarships for people to take the courses. MSC Rothschild, McTigue to apply for the scholarship. Ms. Rothschild offered to complete the application. Mr. Adriance reports that he is presenting tomorrow at Montclair state University in the anthropology department and last month presented on the Jersey Dutch architecture at Harrington Park. Ms. Bouton Goldberg reports that the next Harrington Park Historical Society lecture will be about the history of aviation in NJ.

3. Toby’s archive - Mr. Adriance delivered the newspaper archives to Mr. Tobia’s house and went through Mr. Tobia’s archives – documents, photographs, school records, etc. He proposes having it scanned with a keyword program. Mr. Zelnik asks that Mr. Adriance send a description so that he can pursue this plan. Mr. Adriance speaks of a publication that was given out at the cornerstone ceremony for Closter Borough Hall. Ms. Bouton Goldberg states that a 1949 newspaper has a photo of the Nagel Auryansen Cemetery. Mr. Adriance suggests that a group go over to Mr. Tobia’s to assess the archive. Ms. Bouton Goldberg is meeting with Davis Ross Harrington Park to see how he is proceeding with a similar project there.

4. Other – nothing reported.

L. Adjournment MSC Ms. Bouton Goldberg, Ms. Mctigue at 9:20 p.m.