

MINUTES
CLOSTER HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MONDAY, April 27, 2015
8:04 PM

- A. Call to order** – Mr. Adriance read the Statement of the Open Public Meetings Act at 8:04 p.m.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance**
- C. Attendance – Present:** Tim Adriance, Jennifer Rothschild, Bobbie Boston-Goldberg, William J. Martin, Joel Zernike, Susan McTigue, Tom Hennessey (Council Liaison), Jayne Rubenfeld-Waldron and Orlando Tobia (8:10)
Absent: Erik Lenander
- D. Minutes- March 2015** – MSC (Motion, Seconded, Carried) McTigue, Zernike to approve the March minutes as written. Unanimous approval
- E. Open to Public** – No one wished to speak
- F. Correspondence** – from the Bergen County Historic Preservation Advisory Board – The Resolvert Naugle house (119 Hickory Lane) has been selected for a preservation award. Ceremony will be May 7th at Varick AME Zion Memorial Church 120 Atlantic St. Hackensack, NJ at 7 p.m. Awardees should arrive at 6:30 p.m.
- G. Old Business**
1. **Active future proposals for designation**
 - A. Nagel/Auryansen Cemetery – no report
 - B. High Street District – no report William J. Martin will communicate via email with Bobbie Boston Goldberg regarding the date of the slide show presentation
 - C. G. Trautwein-Haring Area – no report
 - D. Blanche Avenue – draft nomination report distributed to the Commission.
Bobbie describes and explains.
 - E. MacBain Farmhouse – no report
 2. **Closter Hall of Fame** – Joel reports that the project is going forward. Susan McTigue explains that 4-5 Senior Service students are going to work on this project as well as other projects, for five days a week, five hours per day, from May 18 to June 22. Their primary work space is going to be the Closter Public Library conference room, when it's available. Joel will provide them with a list of names and other information that he's gathered. They will be encouraged to come up with a design for a large poster and also other hard-copied information in a looseleaf binder and a digital version that can be placed on the website. The other project will be scanning Orlando Tobia's collection. Another project is to clean up the Lustron House. Jayne Rubenfeld Waldron suggests dividing the group into "teams." Susan McTigue suggests different possibilities for dividing the work.

H. Liaison Reports

1. Council – Tom Hennessey states that the Closter Improvement Commission would like a liaison from this Commission
2. Planning Board – no liaison
4. Brief reports on topics related to historic preservation *only*

I. New Business

1. Lustron House – Tim Adriance reports that he saw the interior of the Lustron House, along with Tom Hennessey, Jennifer Rothschild and Bobbie Boston Goldberg. He reports that the building is in pretty good shape; the majority of the original fabric is in place, in the interior. On the exterior, the breezeway was likely added on at some point. The electric service is interrupted, due to the demolition permit that had been requested, prior to its donation. Tim reports that the electrical service isn't up to code and that the panel is antiquated. There is an issue that needs immediate attention. The steel caps need to be re-affixed to the top of the roof of the garage. The building itself is framed with steel studs. The garage is wood framed with a metal skin. Ms. McTigue asks how to remove the paint. Mr. Adriance surmises that it could be power-washed. Mr. Martin cautions against using water on the enameled steel panels. The spot with the worst issue is the west gable of the garage, where the roof caps are missing. The gutters might have been replaced. The original linoleum tiles are evident in the closets and under the more current tiles. Mr. Tobia suggests looking at the Lustron in Alpine. Ms. Rubenfeld-Waldron suggests more communication with other Lustron owners. Mr. Adriance describes the heating system: the ceiling is 2-foot-square panels. There are no grills or radiators anywhere. It is a gas-fired forced hot-air system in which the entire ceiling and wall assemblies are a plenum chamber and the heat circulates throughout. The roof is insulated via an insulated attic space. There is an antique refrigerator and antique stove, and the tub is original, as is the built-in cabinetry. The type of metal used for the walls is different than that used on the cabinetry, and the cabinetry exterior finishes were affected by the environment of the house, e.g. hair spray. Mr. Adriance suggests that this Lustron House would be an amazing museum. In Bergen County, there are many house museums that are 18th and 19th Century examples. There are very few in the country from other eras. Mr. Adriance reports that the Ohio History Center in Columbus, Ohio, has a Lustron INSIDE of their museum. This same Lustron house had been on display in the Museum of Modern Art, briefly, then was moved to Ohio. It is set up there as a living history museum, fully furnished. Mr. Martin notes that Mid-Century design is enjoying a resurgence in popularity. Mr. Adriance asks: what is the vision for the Lustron House. Ms. McTigue states that it would make a good museum, although it is small and needs work. The smaller bedroom could be used as an archive for the historical society and for use by the public for historic research. A combined use could work for this unique space. Mr. Martin suggests that it might be better to have a person living there who could open it. Mr. Adriance and others argue that its uniqueness makes it ideal for a newer type of museum. Mr. Tobia describes how the Belskie Museum was created. Pros and cons of creating a Lustron museum there are discussed. Mr. Adriance reports that an Historic Structures report or Preservation Plan needs to be done first. Discussion about grant monies that might be available. Discussion about government-owned historic buildings and how they must be treated with respect to repairs – the Borough of Closter cannot just go in and repair. Mr. Adriance reports that the Borough should put out a Request for Proposals (RFP) for an Historic Structures Report (HSR). There is a list of professionals kept by the state of NJ. Mr. Zernike asks if a generic HSR could be obtained from

an organization in Ohio. Mr. Adriance states that this individual structure needs to be assessed, but that the generic information can be useful. The assessment would ask for recommendations about the Breezeway and would ask for a restoration plan and a list of requirements needed for a house museum (etc). and possibly a landscape plan. Mr. Martin suggests finding out informally what the report will cost. Ms. McTigue suggests doing a PR campaign to raise money. Mr. Adriance suggests a PR campaign about the Lustron.

2. Closter Historic Society update – Susan McTigue The next phase is working with the student volunteers. In the Fall, the Society can re-group and figure out the next steps. Mr. Adriance notes that the raid on Closter took place in October.

3. Talks with Toby - Mr. Tobia reports that there is a talk coming up in May at a Catholic club. He suggests that topics can be repeated. He also suggests that the students could participate

4. Continuing education – report all classes and lectures attended to Jayne

J. Adjournment at 9:36 p.m. (Motion by Bobbie Boston Goldberg, seconded by Jennifer Rothschild.)