

**MINUTES**  
**CLOSTER HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**  
**MONDAY, February 23, 2015**  
**8:00 PM**

**A. Call to order** – Statement of Open Public Meetings Act

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

**C. Attendance**

**Present:** Tim Adriance, Jennifer Rothschild, Bobbie Bouton Goldberg, Susan McTigue, Jayne Rubenfeld-Waldron, William J. Martin, Orlando Tobia, Joel Zelnik, Erik Lenander, Tom Hennessey, Council Liaison

**Absent:** none

**D. Minutes-** December 2014 MSC to table approval of the the minutes: William J. Martin, Jayne Rubenfeld-Waldron

**E. Open to Public - John Roynon** of Leonia’s HPC came to observe; he had been at an Historic Preservation Conference at which Jennifer Rothschild had spoken (“Best Practices” panel at the 2014 Annual Historic Preservation Conference). Mr. Roynon stated that he has recently been elected chairman of the Leonia Commission and wishes to learn about how Commissions operate and succeed.

**F. Correspondence – INCOMING: State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) letter to Closter regarding road improvements and curbing on Hickory Lane:** the letter states that the SHPO made the determination that there will be no negative impact to the two historic properties on Hickory Lane (#80 and #119) and that curbing will not negatively affect the properties; Tom Hennessey reports that the Borough is accepting bids for the work that will include curbing on the entire portion to be paved, where modern curbing is absent. It will be Belgian block laid on an angle.

**BERGEN COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS:** Jennifer Rothschild and Bobbie Bouton Goldberg suggest that 119 Hickory Lane be nominated, for the restoration of the house and outbuildings. Tim concurs and states, furthermore, that the farm was preserved via the Bergen County Open Space Trust Fund. William J. Martin notes that last year’s awards were cancelled due to the construction of the courthouse parking garage and the Bergen County 350<sup>th</sup> celebration. Mr. Lenander suggests that the Lustron be nominated, since it has been saved from demolition. Discussion

**G. Reorganization.**

**Oaths of office:** Orlando Tobia – Alt. #1 member

and Jayne Rubenfeld Waldron – Class C were sworn in by Mr. Adriance

**Confirmation of Meeting Dates** – Mr. Adriance reads meeting dates from separate sheet.

MSC Rothschild, Lenander to accept meeting dates as written

**Confirmation of Legal Newspapers for Advertising** – Bergen Record MSC McTigue, Zelnick to approve this newspaper as the paper of record

**Election of Officers:** Chairman: MSC Rothschild, Bouton-Goldberg to nominate Tim Adriance as Chair;  
Vice Chair: MSC Adriance, Bouton-Goldberg to nominate Jennifer Rothschild as Vice Chair  
Secretary: MSC Rubinfeld-Waldron, Bouton-Goldberg to nominate Jennifer Rothschild as Secretary  
Nominations closed. Unanimous vote in approval for all offices.

## **H. Old Business**

### **1. Active future proposals for designation**

- A. Nagel/Auryansen Cemetery – Mr. Adriance is still working on the nomination report. (Discussion about “mud house” in Paramus)
  - B. High Street District – No report
  - C. G. Trautwein-Haring Area
  - D. Blanche Avenue – Ms. Bouton-Goldberg asks for the Commissioners to review her history of Blanche Avenue; she is receiving feedback from members of the Environmental Commission. Mr. Adriance asks if we are proposing to designate from Piermont Avenue to Herbert Avenue? Mr. Tobia notes that the pansy farm house, Colonel Blanch’s house, was at the corner of West Street. Discussion and consensus that the nomination report should extend to the Dwars Kill. Mr. Adriance reports on first notation of the name “Closter” in a 1720 deed. Ms. Bouton Goldberg states that she received some good history of the airfield from Joe Bianco. Discussion about content of report. Mr. Adriance asks that anyone with input share it with Ms. Bouton Goldberg. She states that a goal would be to re-build a bridge over the Dwars Kill to Norwood. Mr. Martin states that the DEP would need to review this application. Question about where the bones of the mastodon were located. Mr. Martin states that there were found in Harrington Park.
  - E. MacBain Farmhouse – no report
2. **Closter Hall of Fame** – Mr. Adriance reports to Mr. Zelnick about the printout he had brought at the November meeting, in which a poster without a map was created with the images of the people, showing them doing what they are famous for e.g. singing. Mr. Martin suggests putting their addresses by the names. Mr. Zelnick reports that there is a space in the library allocated for this Hall of Fame, above the search computers. Discussion.

## **I. Liaison Reports**

- 1. **Council** –Tom Hennessey. He met with the Borough Administrator and the contractor who is taking care of the building. The plan is now to have natural brick with repointed mortar. He suggests that the HPC get involved in approving the project. Discussion. Jennifer offers to look at the paint samples on the front of the building on the cast concrete panels. Lustron house discussed. Ms. Rothschild speaks about grants available to the Lustron for evaluation and restoration, now that it is owned by the municipality and is already listed on the state and national registers of historic places. The idea of having a caretaker living there, versus using the space as a museum, or a combination of the two, is discussed. Mr. Zelnick proposes having a 50’s concert there as a fundraiser.
- 2. **Planning Board** – no liaison at present. Ms. Rothschild explains that the Historic Preservation Ordinance requires that there be a liaison from the Planning Board to the Historic Commission, but not the other way around. Irene Stella had been able to serve in both roles.

Erik Lenander reports that he was not reappointed to the Planning Board, so he can no longer serve as liaison.

**J. New Business**

1. **Continuing education** - Ms. Rubenfeld Waldron reports that she is compiling the CLG report for 2014. She states that she only has a short list of courses that Commissioners have taken. She informs the membership of the need to take continuing education classes. She asks Commissioners to send information about classes that they have taken. She also asks for short resumes from Ms. McTigue and Mr. Lenander.
2. **Talks with Toby** – Susan McTigue reports that Mr. Tobia did a wonderful presentation at the Closter Senior Center with 35-40 people in attendance. She will work with Mr. Tobia on future plans. Mr. Tobia suggest doing the program at the library on a Sunday afternoon, so that older people who don't like to drive at night and who might want to visit the Belskie Museum.
3. **Closter Historical Society update** – Susan McTigue reports that the first meeting in January was well-attended and the room was filled. David Sennett drove from Rhode Island to attend, and Maria Costa and her two teenage children attended. Another meeting recently was less-well-attended, probably due to the adverse weather. Many projects were proposed and discussed.
4. **High Street powerpoint/slideshow**: Mr. Martin is working on the presentation. He will suggest a date and then the Commission will send out letters to the High Street neighborhood inviting them and asking them for information. Mr. Adriance explains the role of community engagement in getting support for historic preservation.
5. **Nemo Theater/Closter Rec/Dance Studio**: Mr. Tobia reports that at Mayor Heymann's retirement party, the new owners asked for information about the Nemo Theater and that he provided old newspaper articles and other material to Councilwoman Vickie Amitai.
6. **Online map of historic sites**: Mr. Adriance explains and demonstrates "wikimapia" [www.wikimapia.org](http://www.wikimapia.org) brings up a map. At the top of the page, go to categories and put in "place of historical importance." (Bergen County) Anyone can register and input historical data of sites, e.g. a layer for state/national register properties.
7. Mr. Martin asks that the website be updated w/re Commissioners.
8. Ms. Bouton-Goldberg suggests that all Commissioners' names be placed on the nomination reports.

**K. Adjournment MSC to adjourn: Rothschild, Lenander at 9:46 p.m.**