

MINUTES
CLOSTER HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MONDAY, January 25th, 2016

A. Call to order – Mr. Adriance read the Statement of Open Public Meetings Act and called the meeting to order at 8:02 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Attendance:

Present: Tim Adriance, Jennifer Rothschild, William J. Martin, Joel Zelnik, Erik Lenander, Jayne Rubinfeld-Waldron, Susan McTigue, Bobbie Bouton-Goldberg, Orlando Tobia Sophie Heymann, Planning Board liaison
Brian Stabile, Council Liaison

D. Minutes- November 2015 Motion by Ms. McTigue, seconded by Mr. Zelnik to **approve** the minutes with corrections.

E. Open to Public: Irene Stella of Edgewater (formerly of Closter) states that she is happy to finish projects that she had started when on the commission: making an application for the remainder of the historic district street signs and informational plaques that can be attached to some of these signs. She also recommends an outreach to historic property owners. She suggests that keeping the people living in these properties happy and interested is good for the Commission. She recommends Closter Borough website changes and that minutes be posted immediately after being approved. Discussion

F. Correspondence - separate sheet – some discussion under new business regarding the Congregational Church; Discussion of nominations for Bergen County Historic Preservation awards: consensus is that former Mayor Heymann should be nominated for her leadership (category F) and that the Closter Borough Hall be nominated for preservation/restoration of a structure (category D)

G. Reorganization.

-Oaths of office: Jennifer Rothschild, Erik Lenander, Susan McTigue

Mr. Adriance leads the oaths

- Election of Officers Ms. Rothschild makes the motion, seconded by Mr. Martin that Tim Adriance remain as Chair; Ms. Bouton-Goldberg nominates Ms. Rothschild for Secretary & Vice Chair seconded by Ms. Rubinfeld-Waldron. Mr. Lenander moved that the nominations be closed seconded by Mr. Martin. The motions were approved.

-Confirmation of Meeting Dates- read aloud by Ms. Rubinfeld-Waldron seconded by Ms. Bouton-Goldberg; approved.

-Confirmation of Legal Newspapers for Advertising – Bergen Record Motion by Ms. Rothschild, seconded by Ms. Rubinfeld-Waldron. Approved

H. Old Business

1. Active future proposals for designation

A. Nagel/Auryansen Cemetery- no report

B. High Street District – Ms. Bouton Goldberg reports that Ms. Rubenfeld-Waldron is continuing research into the deeds. Ms. Rubenfeld-Waldron states that educating the property owners should be the next step. Ms. Rothschild asks if Mr. Martin is going to give a talk about the architecture of the neighborhood. Ms. Stella suggests a letter asking the property owners for more information about their homes. She suggests a period of two years, moving slowly to get the support of the neighborhood. She reminds the Commission of the questionnaire to be sent around asking about fears of school expansion, etc. The Commission also gave the framed photos of the West Street/Harrington Avenue houses to the homeowners, then hosted a tea. Ms. Bouton Goldberg reminds the Commission about the brochure regarding the West Street Harrington Avenue District

C. G. Trautwein-Haring Area – no report

D. Blanch Avenue – Mr. Adriance states that we need to approach the Mayor and Council for honorific recognition of Blanch Avenue. Ms. Heymann suggests a letter to the council asking them to vote to recognize Blanch as historic and to ask them to appropriate funds for signage from the Open Space fund. Discussion about the possibility of advancing the designation of Hickory Lane. Mr. Adriance states that Hickory Lane is distinguished from Blanch Avenue, in that it retains most of its original fabric. The path and width are nearly the same, particularly from Piermont Road to Bradley Road. There are also a number of significant buildings and sites on this roadway. Ms. Heymann states that the people on Hickory Lane would likely welcome this designation. Discussion about measuring the metes and bounds of the roadway. Ms. Heymann suggests recommending Hickory Lane as an historic district. Discussion. Motion by Mr. Lenander seconded by Ms. Bouton-Goldberg to resubmit the nomination report for Hickory Lane; approved.

E. MacBain Farmhouse

I. Liaison Reports

1. Council – Brian Stabile states that the finances of the year are being put together. Jennifer asks about the website issues mentioned earlier. Ms. McTigue asks about the Lustron house and plans for tenants, e.g. Mike Pisano. Mr. Stabile states that there is no opposition to Mike Pisano. Mr. Stabile asks about the letter from the State Historic Preservation Office to the Borough of Closter. Ms. Rothschild explains and reads from the letter. She recommends that the Council assign the Historic Preservation Commission governance over the Lustron House and to allow the Commission to communicate with the State Historic Preservation Office on issues regarding the Lustron.

2. Planning Board – Sophie Heymann raises the topic of Heidenberg Plaza. There will be a change in their signage to a black-and-white sign. They also have used pavers that do not match the sidewalks in the downtown district. Discussion. Ms. Rothschild recommends communication with the Zoning and Planning Boards regarding which applications should be directed to the Commission for comments. Mr. Stabile and Mr. Adriance recommend that an email be sent to these boards' coordinators.

3. Brief reports on topics related to historic preservation *only*

J. New Business

1. Lustron House Jennifer describes the grant application that she and the Borough Administrator and Leslie Weatherly prepared. The borough is requesting funds to finance a preservation plan for the Lustron House. Mr. Martin states that having a preservation plan will make it more likely for the Borough to get further grant monies from the county.

2. Continuing Education – report all classes and lectures attended to Jayne

3. Talks with Toby –Ms. Bouton Goldberg recommends “Italian Americans in Closter” as a topic. She also reports on MacBain Farm. Mr. Orlando speaks about Italian American families in Closter. He references the Suburbanite last week; there was a story about a master sergeant in the Battle of the Bulge.

4. Closter Historic Society update – Susan McTigue – She reports that she has received emails asking for support for saving the Blauvelt Mansion. Discussion. Consensus is that the Society can send a letter, but not the Commission. Mr. Lenander suggests that the Mayor and Council could send such a letter.

5. Bergen County Historic Preservation Awards – see above

6. (Sale of) Congregational Church: Letter from Marcia Jovine, 270 Harrington Avenue, Closter regarding the sale of this church which is across the street from her home. She expresses concern about the property being demolished and new development taking place. She asks that all officials and police be aware of any attempt at demolition or construction. Mr. Adriance states that the former Congregational Church is within the West Street/Harrington Avenue District and thus the owner would be required to come before the Commission for any proposed changes including demolition. Mr. Tobia states that the sale sign says “commercial property for sale.” Motion by Ms. Rothschild seconded by Ms. McTigue that a letter be sent to the realtor regarding the historic status of the property, with cc to building dept, zoning officer construction official and the Jovines. Mr. Adriance and Mr. Martin will investigate whether the County of Bergen might have included restrictive language when they granted monies to the church for restoration of the steeple. Discussion about possibility of subdivision of the property. Ms. Bouton-Goldberg suggests language about adaptive re-use of the building, like the uses of the Old Church Cultural Center and the Nyack Center (both were churches prior to their present uses). Discussion about the possibility of the utilities being disconnected. New motion by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Lenander to rescind the prior motion and replace with a motion that the Commission will send a letter to construction code official and zoning official, but not to the realtor, to alert them to what we believe is a misleading sign and to remind them of the site’s historic designation within the District.

7. Exterior door on second floor of Borough Hall – Discussion about moving emergency exit (Ms. Heymann)

8. Letter to Closter Plaza developer. No report.

9. Mr. Lenander states that the Borough of Maywood is doing a hall of fame and took its inspiration from the Borough of Closter.

K. Adjournment Motion by Ms. Bouton-Goldberg, seconded by Ms. McTigue to adjourn at 10:05 p.m.