

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
BOROUGH OF CLOSTER, NEW JERSEY

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Monday, May 18, 2009, 8:01 p.m.

I. Mr. Douglas Radick, Chairman, called the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission of the Borough of Closter, New Jersey held on Monday May 18, 2009 in the municipal chambers of the Borough Hall to order at 8:01 p.m. He stated that the meeting was being held in compliance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act of the State of New Jersey.

II. Mr. Radick invited all persons present to join the Board members in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. The following Board members and liaisons were present at the meeting:

Doug Radick  
Irene Stella  
Jennifer Rothschild  
Jayne Rubenfeld Waldron  
Bobbie Bouton Goldberg  
Grisha Davida  
Orlando Tobia  
Andy Ouzoonian, Planning Board Liaison

Absent: John Kashwick, Council Liaison

MINUTES: Minutes of April 2009 adopted MSC Stella, Rubenfeld-Waldron

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC RE: MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA: No one present

Correspondence: A. Incoming: Completed Questionnaires from District property owners: 4 returned and 2 to expired address/not forwarded. Discussion about the comments contained in completed questionnaires and what constitutes minor versus major applications for certificate of appropriateness. Ms. Stella suggests that a folder accompany the c/a forms explaining the procedure. Discussion. MSC Stella, Rubenfeld that we craft an attachment or cover to be given to the resident with the c/a form which explains the procedure, time frame and relevant time periods. Mr. Davida provides a copy of the Evesham procedures w/re the certificate of appropriateness. Discussion. Further discussion about results of questionnaires.

VII. REPORTS.

PREPARATION FOR MAY 23<sup>RD</sup> EVENT: Irene has been in touch with Marcia Jovine and reports that there are already three tables available and many chairs, so we don't need any more. Probably will not be using a tent. Jennifer will bring two large coffee pots. Jayne is bringing cups, plates and napkins. We need large bottles of water, and name tags. Commission members should be at the Jovine garden by 10 a.m. Ms. Stella has a list of necessary items to be brought to the event.

CEMETERY UPDATE: Ms. Stella states that the cemetery needs mowing and weeding. She will contact Daren Swatek regarding the caretaker for Ms. Brooks' property, who has indicated an interest in caring for the property. She has discussed the issue with Tim Adriance regarding how much care needs to be taken when mowing the cemetery. Discussion about the signs that Pat Morillo commissioned. Mr. Davida will work on weather-proofing the signs and mounting the signs; Mr. Davida will pick up the signs from Ms. Rothschild. Discussion about Mr. Siegel's landscaping on the perimeter the cemetery on Susan Drive access. Ms. Bouton Goldberg raises the issue of getting a grant for maintenance from a veterans' group.

Proposed that three estimates be gathered for landscaping maintenance and that a vote be taken at another meeting.

#### VIII. LIASON REPORTS:

PLANNING BD. Mr. Andy Ouzoonian: Report on the Closter Plaza renovation. There will be another work session and a public meeting in June or July. It will be done in two phases. Discussion. Whole Foods will come first along with façade changes of existing buildings. Phase Two will be demolition of K-Mart. Stop and Shop will be torn down as well to make way for a new Whole Foods. Discussion about the sign and other matters.

COUNCIL: Mr. Kashwick: Absent

ZONING: Jennifer Rothschild: No report.

ENVIRONMENTAL: Bobbie Bouton-Goldberg: Meeting tomorrow night will discuss Closter Plaza.

IMPROVEMENT: Irene Stella: Meets next week and will be discussing sign ordinance and payment for Christmas decorations.

#### IX. OLD BUSINESS:

LUSTRON: Mr. Davida distributes documents obtained from the Planning Board when the previous subdivision was submitted. Mr. Davida met incidentally with Richard Schmidt, who stated that the application had been filed with the Planning Board as of last Friday. Discussion of the time table. Mr. Radick summarizes the issue. Discussion. Ms. Stella suggests that we speak with one voice regarding our position. Discussion about merits of supporting this application in order to preserve the Lustron house. Mr. Davida suggests that we submit the Lustron to the most-endangered list done by Preservation NJ. MSC Davida, Stella. Rothschild recuses; all others in favor. Ms. Rubinfeld-Waldron suggests that it be done this week. Ms. Stella will contact Laurie Kaplan of the Northern Valley Press to ask for an article about Lustrons. MSC Radick, Bouton-Goldberg to present to the Planning Board that we are in favor of the preservation of the Lustron House. Discussion. Mr. Davida suggests stronger language because of the pristine condition of this Lustron. Mr. Radick agrees and discusses the history of the Lustron and Mr. Davida notes that Mr. Hess also owned a service station. Unanimous approval of voting members; Rothschild recuses due to prior discussions with Mr. Schmidt to purchase the Lustron property.

VILLAGE SCHOOL: Ms. Stella discusses poor condition of Village School with open windows visible. Mr. Radick will pursue the website avenue for reporting problems.

STREET SIGNS: Ms. Stella ordered one street sign. Discussion about what we will be receiving; perhaps we will not receive a pole and base.

VACANCIES ON THE COMMISSION: Discussion about inviting a prospective member to upcoming meetings and events.

WEST ST./HARRINGTON AVE. DISTRICT: Rothschild reports conversation and e-mail from attorney. Discussion about whether Mr. Radick should recuse himself. Discussion about the required mailing. It was decided that the committee formerly set up to handle the paperwork for designation will represent the Commission in dealings with the attorney and preparation of the notices.

#### X. NEW BUSINESS:

REPORT ON TIME SPENT BY ROSE MITCHELL FOR COMMISSION WORK: 5/18/09 Typed and printed the agenda and photocopied the minutes and put packets together; prior work included the preparation of envelopes for the previous mailing, return address labels, preparation of the legal list of property owners, preparation and submission of the legal notification for the news paper.

BORO HALL: Ms. Rothschild reports on discussion with Bob Craig at the State Historic Preservation Office regarding attempting the inclusion of the Closter Borough Hall on the State and National Registers; he stated that the opinion of his office is that the boro hall does not qualify, but that we can submit a preliminary application, which requires less documentation and paperwork. He advised not to do this until July or later, due to time pressures on the state office at this time.

HISTORIC RAILROAD STATION: Ms. Stella asks if anyone has spoken with Ivy Dash, who owns the station.

Ms. Stella announces the grant-writing workshop - by Bergen County, the June 4<sup>th</sup> state conference and Northern Valley Historic Society will be on June 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 at the Demarest Railroad Station.

XI. ADJOURNMENT: MSC Stella, Rothschild to adjourn at 10:00 p.m. Respectfully submitted, JHR

**Addendum: List of motions passed at the April meeting:** Minutes accepted, adjournment. MSC Stella, Rubinfeld-Waldron that a letter be attached to the certificate of appropriateness form to explain it to residents; MSC Davida, Stella that the Lustron be submitted for inclusion on the "Most Endangered" list of NJ buildings; MSC Radick, Bouton-Goldberg that Mr. Radick speak before the Planning Board at the hearing regarding the importance of the Lustron.

**PLANS OTHERWISE MADE BY COMMISSIONERS DURING THE MEETING:** Paperwork committee set up previously will work with the attorney to provide necessary notices for the designation hearing. Two additional landscaping estimates need to be brought to the next meeting so that a vote can be taken for use of open space monies.

Next meeting: Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8 p.m.