

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
BOROUGH OF CLOSTER, NEW JERSEY

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Monday, July 27, 2009, 8:10 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 June 22, 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
Grisha Davida (8:10)
Orlando Tobia (8:15)
Tim Adriance
Andy Ouzoonian, Planning Board Liaison
John Kashwick, Council Liaison (8:20)

Absent Bobbie Bouton Goldberg
Jayne Rubenfeld Waldron

MINUTES: Minutes of June, 2009 adopted MSC Stella, Davida.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC RE: MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA: Brad Burns of High Street states that he is interested in Closter history and wished to attend. of way for the neighbor's purpose is another matter.

Correspondence: A. Incoming: certified mail retuens and undeliverable mail. Course list for Drew University. Bill for street signs. Reminder to file final report for Bergen County grant from Division of Cultural Affairs. B. Outgoing: 1. Notification letter with lawyer's notice nnd nomination report. 2. Letter to mayor and council informing them of the designation hearing date and including the amended resolution. Discussion about the minor changes made to the nomination report.

VII. REPORTS.

HISTORIC STREET SIGNS: Ms. Stella The first of the street signs have arrived and are displayed on the table.

OPEN SPACE REQUESTS: Ms. Stella offers the idea of requesting funds for more street signs along the boundaries of the Closter Historic District as delineated in the 1982 Bergen County Sites Survey. Corner of Demarest and Legion, by the railroad station at Station Court, in front of Borough Hall, and other locations in the downtown area. The other idea is to add plaques hanging on a rod on the street sign pole describing the buildings nearby. Discussion about where exactly to place the other signs; which specific corner of the intersecting streets. Ms. Rothschild inquires as to whether the Police Department needs to give approval. Ms. Stella has had discussions with the mayor and Mr. Dahl of the DPW. Discussion about the procedures for obtaining open space funding in Closter. Mr. Kashwick states that it is a subcommittee of the Council. Makes reference to the referendum that was passed 15 years ago. Ms. Stella also asked

whether funding could be requested at other times of the year; Mr. Kashwick states “yes.” MSC Stella, Davida to request funding for public viewshed of the cemetery including fencing from Open Space monies. Mr. Adriance states that not the entire perimeter of the cemetery needs to be fenced.

CEMETERY UPDATE: Irene praises Grisha Davida for his hard work on clearing the cemetery. Mr. Davida states that more needs to be done. Ms. Stella suggests that there be a “Friends of the Cemetery” group established. Discussion about removal of trees at this time, when the neighbor is being investigated for removing trees on Borough property and the cemetery. There are currently 14 trees standing in the cemetery. Discussion about Sassafras trees and how old they might be. Ms. Stella suggests that more work needs to be done now, such as spraying the poison ivy and weeding. Mr. Davida states that at least three, maybe four trees need to be removed immediately. MSC Stella, Davida to have these trees examined by Ray Cywinski and Joe Ulrich and a recommendation from Tim Adriance on procedure. Discussion about grave stones which are down currently. Mr. Adriance states that one of the things that we should consider is the appearance of the cemetery to the community. The fencing needs to be addressed. To make the site more inviting, and now that the Susan Drive entrance is very clear, it would behoove us to improve the look of the cemetery to change the fencing. Early photographs shows wood posts with a metal pipe. A two-post split rail fence might be better. Problems in the past included theft of tomb stones, kids cutting through, and dogs being walked around there. Ms. Stella suggests that the “Friends of the Cemetery” group include the immediate neighbors of the cemetery. MSC Stella, Rothschild that Mr. Davida and Mr. Adriance. research fencing. Black locust is suggested. Granite piers with wood in between is suggested. Mr. Tobia suggests concrete posts with the fencing and states that a person in Little Ferry makes these.

VIII. LIASON REPORTS:

PLANNING BD. Mr. Andy Ouzoonian: Report on the Closter Plaza renovation. There will be a public meeting on this Thursday night and he encourages as many people as possible to attend. Mr. Radick states that he saw a scale model prepared by Mr. Bianco showing the size of the building and the amount of asphalt.

COUNCIL: Mr. Kashwick: Discussed Open Space funding request procedures. Discussion about curbing on West Street in the Historic District. Discussion about stone house on West Street. Mr. Adriance states that any governmental action, whether local, state or federal needs a formal review and that as a watchdog agency we need to safeguard these resources. Question about what to do about curbing on West Street. Mr. Adriance says that we should not create a faux history. The concrete curbing should be replaced in kind. Mr. Kashwick notes that there is curbing and sidewalks in the historic photo which is listed as circa 1900; Mr. Davida notes that the electric/telephone pole in the photo indicates that it must be 1910 or later.

ZONING: Ms. Rothschild re Futterknecht and answered questions about Lustron and conversation with Richard Schmidt

ENVIRONMENTAL: Bobbie Bouton-Goldberg: Absent.

IMPROVEMENT: Irene Stella: Letter sent to Planning Board with concerns about plans for Closter Plaza.

IX. OLD BUSINESS:

MIELE C/A APPLICATION: Mr. Radick discusses changes to his plan. Discussion about architectural details; Mr. Adriance has several suggestions. Mr. Adriance suggests that the added eyebrow window is of the late nineteenth century shingle style and should be removed. Rather than going with a mullion window, suggests a single 6/6 window that matches the windows on the main structure in proportion. Mr. Radick agrees to go with a single window. He will remove the eyebrow window. MSC Tobia, Davida to approve the application with the stating changes. Discussion about materials and details. Mr. Radick asks for recommendations about paint color. Mr. Adriance suggests white, oxblood red . . . asks about shutters on the windows. Mr. Radick states that real shutters Mr. Adriance states that the drawings as shown creates the vision of a complementary wing in flavor of what exists now; it does not conflict with the structure and complements it. Unanimous approval.

LUSTRON: Ms. Rothschild relates her brief discussion with Mr. Richard Schmidt about his changed plans for developing around the Lustron house. Mr. Schmidt did not appear tonight at the meeting. He has not yet filed plans with the Planning Board.

WEST ST./HARRINGTON AVE. DISTRICT: MSC Stella, Davida to accept nomination report with changes. Mr. Adriance suggests that in the future, a genealogy of all owners from the builder on, be added to the description.

X. NEW BUSINESS:

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS: New form needs a signature line to make it valid. Mr. Radick states that Mr. Sinowitz and Mr. Sager would not accept the newly amended c/a form because it didn't have a signature line. Mr. Radick signed his own application for the c/a in the Miele case, and this was accepted by Mr. Sinowitz .

DESIGNATION HEARING ON AUGUST 3: Mr. Radick asks who will attend. Everyone present will attend, and it is known that Bobbie Bouton Goldberg will be present. Discussion about whether Doug Radick should recuse himself from the hearing. Mr. Kashwick states that anything involving your property that will benefit you in any way, for instance if road paving were suggested for his street, then he would recuse himself from that vote. Mr. Radick decides that he will recuse himself because of the potential of the historic district adding positive property values to the property owners in the District. Discussion about the hearing and what needs to be addressed. Ms. Rothschild suggests that Ms. Stella discuss the hearing agenda with the attorney, Eric Bal, prior to the meeting. Discussion about the cohesiveness of the proposed District. NJ Historic Trust has written a "script" of a general nature for how a designation hearing should be presented. Mr. Adriance suggests a brief review of the Nomination Report. He does not think that research methodology need be stated. He states that it should not be read aloud. Do a few bullet points about the introduction and touching upon the people (not every family or name should be listed). Mr. Adriance suggests a sign-in sheet for people wishing to comment, and that the chairman call them in the order of their number. Discussion about inviting people supportive of preservation to attend the hearing. There should be a pledge of allegiance, then presentation of the nomination report including the introduction highlights, a statement about the value of preserving history, discussion of commission members, input from the public, and a vote. Anyone from the public wishing to speak should come forward and state their name and address for the record.

CLOSTER'S 300th ANNIVERSARY: Next meeting is Thursday, September 3rd at 7 p.m. Mr. Adriance will be preparing an exhibit of early documentation of Closter for the Belskie Museum. Ms. Rothschild asked if Mr. Adriance would consider doing a cemetery tour again as well as perhaps a Hickory Lane tour along with it, and suggested that property owners there could be asked to open their homes for tours. Further discussion about details of plans for the event. The school superintendent JoAnne Newberry was at the meeting. There will not be a school play. Another idea for the event is a contest to design a logo for the celebration. The events will run during the whole month of April. Every organization will be approached to contribute something.

REPORT ON TIME SPENT BY ROSE MITCHELL FOR COMMISSION WORK: Telephone calls and preparation of the "200 foot list" of the official addresses for property owners in the District.

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

Addendum: List of motions passed at the July meeting:

MSC Stella, to accept june minutes with revisions

MSC Stella,

MSC MSC to adjourn at 10:10 p.m.

Plans otherwise made by the Commission at the July meeting:

Mr. Davida offered to do the cemetery maintenance and rototill the property. Ms. Stella suggested that a feasibility study grant be obtained from the County regarding use of the Lustron house. Mr. Radick suggested that the HPC write a letter to the Planning Board regarding the importance of the Harold Hess Lustron house. Long-range plans for maintenance and public use of the cemetery need to be developed.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Monday, July 27th, 2009 at 8 p.m.

DESIGNATION HEARING AND SPECIAL MEETING: Monday, August 3rd at 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Rothschild
Secretary