

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
BOROUGH OF CLOSTER, NEW JERSEY

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Monday, August 24, 2009, 8:07 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 August 24, 2009 in the municipal chambers of the Borough Hall to order at 8:07 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
Bobbie Bouton Goldberg
Grisha Davida (8:10)

Andy Ouzoonian, Planning Board Liaison
John Kashwick, Council Liaison (8:10)

Absent:

Jayne Rubenfeld Waldron
Orlando Tobia
Tim Adriance

MINUTES: Minutes of July, 2009 Msc Stella, Davida with corrections. Minutes of Special meeting and Designation hearing of August 3, 2009: MSC Rothschild, Stella to approve with minor corrections.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC RE: MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA: No members of the public present.

Correspondence: A. Incoming: None Outgoing: Designation report with resolution to Mayor and Council

VII. REPORTS.

HISTORIC STREET SIGNS: Ms. Stella The first of the street signs has been installed at West Street and Old Closter Dock Road. Ms. Stella reports that the rest of the order has been placed and the touch-up paint will be sent. Mr. Radick states that the feedback has been positive. Mr. Davida and Ms. Stella note that the sign is slightly skewed, but hope that it can be straightened up in the future. Mr. Kashwick asks if the old street signs will be removed. Future locations for the signs will be at West and Harrington and West and High. Discussion about where other signs might need to be placed and about possible designation of the downtown historic district. Mr. Davida discusses the type of signs used in New Rochelle, New York using historic carved figures.

OPEN SPACE: Ms. Stella has placed requests on behalf of the Commission for additional cemetery maintenance, more historic street signs, and architectural review (and preservation plan) of the Borough Hall. She met with the finance committee in July to present the ideas.

CEMETERY UPDATE: Mr. Davida has an estimate from Emerson fence for the cemetery work. Discussion about maintenance and e-mails to the mayor. The mayor has asked the DPW to maintain the Borough property. Ms. Stella discusses the conversations with the mayor and Tim Adriance regarding the removal of trees and how the borough will proceed. Mr. Radick brings up the concept of fencing around the cemetery using concrete posts and pipes. The estimate is discussed. The estimate is \$5849.00 for the entire perimeter with cedar post and rail fencing. Discussion about upkeep. With stain, should last twenty years. Discussion about liability for anyone potentially getting injured on cemetery property, which is not borough property. Ms. Stella suggests that we all take the Drew University one-day course on historic cemeteries.

VIII. LIASON REPORTS:

PLANNING BD. Mr. Andy Ouzoonian: There will be a public meeting on Thursday, but it will not include the Plaza application on the agenda. September 2nd, Wednesday, is the next Closter Plaza meeting. The hearings might be weekly on this case until it is resolved. Discussion about the plans currently submitted. Ms. Rothschild suggests that Commission members attend this week's meeting in case the Historic District is discussed. Rose Mitchell is distributing the Nomination Reports to the Planning Board.

COUNCIL: Mr. Kashwick: Nomination Report was forwarded by the council to the Planning Board.

ZONING: Ms. Rothschild: no report

ENVIRONMENTAL: Bobbie Bouton-Goldberg: The EC has voted to give permission to bring a horse to the MacBain farm. Mr. Isaacson has suggested that all boards and commissions give up their open space monies to erect a barn.

IMPROVEMENT: Irene Stella: Commendation certificates will be presented to Dr. Shyong and Mr. Arcella for their improvements to downtown buildings. 300th anniversary: next meeting is September 3rd. Ms. Stella asks what our Commission should be offering to contribute. Discussion. Ms. Stella presents a plan including asking Bill Cahill to do his talk about Closter sculptors and having lectures/discussions at other times. A stone house tour, a downtown walking tour, a tea at an historic house, etc. Mr. Davida suggests a re-enactment of the lone horsemen. Ms. Stella suggests asking Joe Miele to do horse/ carriage rides. Discussion about the significance of the 1710 date to Closter's history.

IX. OLD BUSINESS:

WEST ST./HARRINGTON AVE. DISTRICT: Designation report and letter was sent to the council. Mr. Kashwick reports that they discussed it and voted to send it on to the Planning Board. Ms. Stella reports that Mayor Heymann gave copies of the Nomination Report to members of the audience. Mr. Radick notes that the hearing went very smoothly. Discussion about the effectiveness of the advance planning, meetings and work on the District and with the property owners in the District.

X. NEW BUSINESS:

GRANT FOR HISTORIC ELEMENT TO THE MASTER PLAN: Mayor Heymann wrote the grant application. The SHPO granted the full amount. Discussion and questions as to what our role should be; whether or not the Commission needs to solicit professionals to write it, or whether the mayor is going to continue to take control of this. Ms. Stella will inquire.

ATTORNEY: Eric Bal has raised issues regarding wording in our ordinance which needs to be changed. MSC Davida, Rothschild to ask Mr. Bal to review the ordinance and provide a cost estimate for his time.

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS: New form needs a signature line to make it valid. Amendments will be discussed at the next meeting.

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. See discussion above.

HARRINGTON PARK: October 4th will be having a tour of cemetery and luncheon fundraiser. Ms. Bouton-Goldberg passes around an invitation.

REPORT ON TIME SPENT BY ROSE MITCHELL FOR COMMISSION WORK: Designation hearing and preparation of the minutes thereof; she has billed for a total of \$150.00. Contact list and motion form.

XI. ADJOURNMENT: MSC Radick, Rothschild at 9:34. Respectfully submitted, JHR

Addendum: List of motions passed at the August meeting:

MSC Stella, to accept July minutes with revisions

MSC Davida, Rothschild to ask Mr. Bal to review the ordinance(s) and provide cost estimates for his time

MSC Radick, Rothschild to adjourn at 9:34 p.m.

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: SEPTEMBER 28, 2009 cancelled due to Yom Kippur
October 26, 2009 is next scheduled meeting**

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Rothschild
Secretary