

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
BOROUGH OF CLOSTER, NEW JERSEY

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Monday, October 26, 2009, 8:00 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, October 26, 2009 in the Closter Senior Citizens' Center to order at 8:00 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)
Jayne Rubenfeld Waldron
Tim Adriance
John Kashwick, Council Liaison

Absent:

Andy Ouzoonian, Planning Board Liaison (Planning Board meeting simultaneously in Borough Hall)
Orlando Tobia

MINUTES: MSC Stella, Rubenfeld-Waldron to adopt Minutes of August, 2009 MSC (September meeting was cancelled due to Yom Kippur)

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

Correspondence:

A. Incoming: 1. NJ Endangered list (discussion; suggestion of Village School) 2. Letter from Arthur Chagaris regarding Historic District (discussion – Ms. Rothschild will contact the Borough Clerk and Eric Bal, Esq. regarding the question of whether to allow the Planning Board more time.) 3. Meeting dates –to hold meetings in Borough Council chambers on fourth Monday of each month at 8 p.m. MSC Bouton-Goldberg, Rubenfeld-Waldron (see agenda, attached) 4. Expiring terms – discussion – Ms. Rothschild will inquire of the Borough Clerk's office 5. Eric Bal retainer letter – Ms. Rothschild will inquire as to the estimated total cost and ask him to give us a list of the needed changes rather than re-writing 6. Letter from State of New Jersey regarding grant allocation

Outgoing:

VII. REPORTS:

Cemetery: Mr. Davida reports that winter's arrival is slowing the growth of weeds and that the stones can be seen. Reports about the information obtained in the Drew course regarding historic cemeteries, that mowers should not be used without bumpers. Mr. Davida gave a synopsis of the course. He would like to straighten some stones in the cemetery. Fencing: we have been allocated \$5000 for a new fence for the

cemetery from local open space monies. Review of Open Space allocation sheet. Discussion about type of fencing and what is there now, gates. Discussion about liability w/re fencing. Discussion about spraying the Sassfras. Mr. Adriance inquires as to whether if the large Sassfras were removed, would the saplings return. Discussion. Ms. Bouton-Goldberg discusses using herbicide in the Spring against invasive species as was done at Flat Rock Brook Nature Center. Mr. Adriance suggests asking Rutgers. Mr. Davida will contact Rutgers to ask what to do; Ms. Rothschild will contact Joe Ulrich to get an estimate for removal of large Sassfras trees. Ms. Stella suggests taking a picture of Mr. Adriance and the mayor looking at the RN and BN stones in the cemetery. Extensive discussion about walkways, what to plant in Borough right-of-way. Ms. Bouton-Goldberg will ask an expert to recommend plantings in the right of way. Mr. Adriance suggests that the Susan Drive entrance be the primary public access point to the cemetery. Discussion about off-road vehicles. Mr. Adriance suggests a stepping stone pathway off Susan Drive leading up to a gate in the rustic fence. There should be two rustic fence gates at the Hickory Lane and a chain across the end of the neighbors' driveway. Discussion about locally designating the cemetery.

Municipal Building Status: An architectural firm sent a query to the town advertising their services. Discussion. Mr. Radick explains the problems regarding the façade of Borough Hall. Remove paint or re-paint is the question. Discussion about locally designating Borough Hall.

VIII. LIASON REPORTS:

PLANNING BD. Mr. Andy Ouzoonian: (absent)

COUNCIL: Mr. Kashwick: The Council is applying for a grant to plant trees in the green space at Closter Dock and Piermont Road. Open Space allocation sheet distributed. Final vote approved the acquisition of the Flamm property at Homan's Avenue between Oakland, Ruckman and the CGI Fitness Center.

ZONING: Ms. Rothschild: Village School has an extension of time for their permits.

ENVIRONMENTAL: Bobbie Bouton-Goldberg: Report on the Harvest Festival at the MacBain Farm.

IMPROVEMENT: Irene Stella: No report.

IX. OLD BUSINESS:

WEST ST./HARRINGTON AVE. DISTRICT: Goal is to have the council act on this before the new year. See discussion above.

ERIC BAL PROPOSAL: see above

HISTORIC ELEMENT GRANT: MSC Bouton-Goldberg, Davida that Ms. Rothschild will contact the state offices.

300th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: Ms. Stella reports regarding the progress. Next meeting will be November 5, 2009 at 7 p.m. Ms. Rothschild asks if the Belskie or library wall have been reserved for April. No one knows. Discussion about "scavenger hunt" organized by the library for children. Ms. Bouton-Goldberg has outlined her exhibit. Mr. Adriance recommends a Bergen County historical marker for the Susan Drive side of the cemetery. Mr. Adriance will work with Mr. Wright to get the wording for the sign.

Re-enactment will take place at the Naugle house with one-way traffic on Hickory from Bradley down the hill for that day. Those homeowners have agreed to this event. Mr. Adriance suggests that we hold a marker dedication at the cemetery, a tour of the cemetery and "the raid on Closter" re-enactment at 80 Hickory Lane, which could be accessed via the right of way down from the cemetery to Hickory Lane. Ms. Bouton Goldberg states that Mr. Tobia gave video tapes of interviews with older residents. Ms. Stella suggests that the Senior Citizen Center use this theme for the month and that we could attend and record reminiscences. The mayor has asked Jerry Boyarsky (realtor) to make an empty storefront available for exhibits. Arnold Brown will be contacted.

X. NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Rubinfeld-Waldron presents a list of events by the Bergen County Historical Society.

ATTORNEY: Eric Bal has presented a retainer for work on the ordinance (distributed).

REPORT ON TIME SPENT BY ROSE MITCHELL FOR COMMISSION WORK: not discussed

XI. ADJOURNMENT: MSC Rubinfeld-Waldron, Bouton-Goldberg at 10:10 p.m.

Addendum: List of motions passed at the October meeting:

MSC Stella, Rubinfeld-Waldron to approve minutes of August, 2009

MSC Bouton-Goldberg, Rubinfeld-Waldron to send list of meeting dates to Borough Clerk: 4th Monday of each month in Borough Council Chambers

MSC Bouton-Goldberg, Davida that Jennifer Rothschild contact the State Office of Historic Preservation to inquire about the Grant for Historic Element to the Master Plan

Other actions:

Ms. Rothschild will contact Eric Bal, Esq. to inquire as to an estimate of time needed for revision of HPC ordinance

Mr. Davida will obtain three fence estimates for cemetery, in order to comply with new Open Space allocation rules

Ms. Rothschild will obtain three tree removal estimates for cemetery, “ “ “ “ “ “

Mr. Adriance will contact Kevin Wright regarding blue historical marker for cemetery

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: Monday, November 23, 2009

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Rothschild
Secretary