

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
BOROUGH OF CLOSTER, NEW JERSEY

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Monday, November 23, 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, November 23, 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
Jayne Rubenfeld Waldron
Tim Adriance
John Kashwick (9:20 due to Council meeting taking place simultaneously)

Absent:
Orlando Tobia

MINUTES: MSC Stella, Rubenfeld-Waldron to adopt Minutes of October, 2009

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC RE: MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA: Mr. William Cahill was present; he stated that it is wonderful that the mayor and council has introduced an ordinance on November 9th and wishes congratulations and wishes for this to pass ultimately. Discussion about the process thus far. Discussion about procedure at the Planning Board meeting of December 2. Ms. Rubenfeld-Waldron will contact the Northern Valley Historical Society. Mr. Radick will contact the Jovines. Ms. Bouton-Goldberg will contact the Norwood Historical Commission.

Correspondence:

A. Incoming: Borough of Closter introduction of ordinance sent to us by the Borough Clerk. Mr. Ouzoonian notes that it was published in the Press Journal.

Outgoing: None

VII. REPORTS:

Cemetery: Mr. Davida has visited the site with Ken's Tree Care and has marked the trees to be removed with pink index cards. Ms. Rothschild has given a copy of Palisades Tree Service estimate to remove three mature Sassafras trees and dead wood, and to paint Round-up on the stumps to hinder sapling growth. Ms. Stella reports about the DPW having access to a prison work crew who could do maintenance work on the cemetery, e.g. leaf removal, branch removal, and weed removal. Discussion. Mr. Davida and Mr. Adriance state that help from the inmates is not needed or wanted at this time. Mr. Davida discusses the recommendations from Rutgers University, whose representatives visited the site, twice. Ken's Tree Care estimate distributed and discussed. Mr. Adriance proposes a general management plan for the historic cemetery site, which would give an overview of the entire historic resource. This would give an overview of the entire area, its history, etc. Mr. Adriance proposes to create a document including a one-page

history, an inventory of who is buried there, and documentary evidence indicating what it looked like historically. We could address what kind of fencing should be placed and what kind of visitor experience could be expected; what entry point, how easily accessed. Mr. Radick suggests that biographical information be available to visitors regarding the persons buried there and the marker stones, etc. Mr. Adriance suggests a kiosk holding brochures. Ms. Stella voices support for this idea. Mr. Radick wishes for the entrance to be more inviting to the public. Mr. Adriance states that after the plan, there would be a restoration plan and a maintenance plan. This would be a multi-disciplinary approach. Mr. Adriance states that this document would emanate from him, but would be brought to the Commission for discussion and approval. Ms. Bouton-Goldberg suggests that this document could also serve as a precursor to a nomination report for the cemetery. Discussion about keeping or removing trees in the cemetery MSC Stella, Bouton-Goldberg that this Commission agrees that a general management plan is necessary for the cemetery and that Mr. Adriance write up a general management plan for review, discussion and possible adoption at a future public Commission meeting.

TREE ESTIMATES: One from Ken's Tree Care and one from Palisades Tree. Discussion about details of which trees and why they are being considered for removal. Discussion about value of mulch being placed. Mr. Adriance states that given the fact that we need to address the cemetery as a whole, we should address the concern of the threat to the site and neighbors' properties. After approval of a plan, we could discuss whether mulch should be introduced. Discussion about use of Round-up and possible problems. Discussion about flagpole; Grisha offers to stain the pole and paint the top gold. Mr. Adriance discusses the flags available for flying and recommends the Grand Union flag. This flag was flown in 1775 and was the first flag with the national colors to be adopted. Ms. Bouton-Goldberg asks about the possibility of the Closter horseman flag being flown. Mr. Adriance states that Mr. Todd Bradestead (sp?) determined who the Closter horseman was: someone from Hunterdon County who was part of the Continental Army. All Closter militia met and drilled in Tappan, NY. At the time, there were two riders: one dispatched to Tappan and one to Fort Lee.

MSC Adriane, Stella that given the immediate danger of damage to the cemetery and neighboring properties that a tree company be employed to remove those trees. Discussion. Motion amended to suggest Ken's Tree Service for removal of five trees and removal of five stumps, plus five additional stumps but not for mulch placement. Those stumps not immediately adjacent to tombstones shall be removed. Maximum of five additional stumps to be removed. Mr. Davida offers to be present at the time of removal and will notify Commission. Mr. Davida will attempt to retain the pricing up to \$2170.00. Ms. Stella agrees to the motion.

MSC Rothschild, Rubinfeld-Waldron that a letter be sent to the Council asking for a waiver for any fees associated with tree removal permit needed for emergency removal of trees.

VIII. LIASON REPORTS:

PLANNING BD. Mr. Andy Ouzoonian: After ten weeks of meetings, a unanimous approval of the Closter Plaza renovations came through. The resolution has not yet been written.

COUNCIL: Mr. Kashwick: No report.

ZONING: Ms. Rothschild: No Report

ENVIRONMENTAL: Bobbie Bouton-Goldberg: EC Chairwoman Dave Scholz is retiring for health reasons and will need new leadership. Mr. Davida expresses interest. Ms. Rubinfeld-Waldron questions whether dual membership is allowed under our ordinance.

IMPROVEMENT: Irene Stella: No report.

IX. OLD BUSINESS:

WEST ST./HARRINGTON AVE. DISTRICT: December 2nd is the Planning Board hearing; December 9th is the Council hearing on the matter.

ERIC BAL PROPOSAL: \$600.00 retainer with estimate of total to be between \$2000 and \$3000, but likely closer to the lesser amount. MSC Bouton-Goldberg, Davida to retain Mr. Bal and ask him to submit his bill ASAP.

HISTORIC ELEMENT GRANT: Ms. Rothschild contacted Andrea Tinghey of the SHPO, and she had not yet mailed out information. She will schedule a meeting with one other municipality that is receiving the same grant.

300th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION:

X. NEW BUSINESS:

New Member proposal: Mr. Radick recommends Lou Lobosco, who expressed interest in serving on the Commission. MSC Rothschild, Rubenfeld-Waldron that Mr. Lobosco be asked to submit his resume to the council.

Certificate of Appropriateness form revision: There was no place for a signature line, which was a problem with the zoning officer. Ms. Stella states that the revisions were meant to make the form more “user-friendly.” Mr. Adriance states that a line needs to be placed for the jurisdictional authority to sign. Ms. Stella states that a signature line will be added.

New Designations: Ms. Stella recommends that we be thinking forward about future designations. Discussion about stone houses that have not yet been designated. A house off Schraalenburgh, a house on Union, and the Vervalen house and Naugle house.

REPORT ON TIME SPENT BY ROSE MITCHELL FOR COMMISSION WORK: n/a

XI. ADJOURNMENT: MSC Rubenfeld-Waldron, Rothschild at 9:45 p.m.

Addendum: List of motions passed at the November meeting:

MSC Stella, Rubenfeld-Waldron to adopt Minutes of October, 2009

MSC Stella, Bouton-Goldberg that this Commission agrees that a general management plan is necessary for the cemetery and that Mr. Adriance write up a general management plan for review, discussion and possible adoption at a future public Commission meeting.

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MSC Bouton-Goldberg, Davida to retain Attorney Eric Bal and ask him to submit his bill ASAP.

MSC Rothschild, Rubenfeld-Waldron that Doug Radick ask Mr. Lobosco to submit his resume to the council.

MSC Rubenfeld-Waldron, Rothschild to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: Monday, January 25, 2010 at 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Rothschild
Secretary