

Historic Preservation Advisory Commission Meeting

Regular Meeting of April 20, 2009 7:00 pm

The regular meeting of the Historic Preservation Advisory Commission took place on the above date. Chairwoman LeFrois read the Open Public Meeting Act and requested Board Secretary Mrs. Citterbart called the roll. Board Secretary Citterbart stated there was a quorum.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Becker, Mr. Kaplan, Mr. Read, Mrs. Schulte, Chairwoman Le Frois, Mr. Wright at 7:30

ABSENT: Mr. Storm

FLAG SALUTE

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

March 16, 2008

Mr. Kaplan made a motion to approve the March 16, 2009 minutes. Mr. Becker second the motion.

AYE: Mr. Kaplan, Mr. Read, Mrs. Schulte, Mr. Becker, Chairwoman Le Frois

APPLICATIONS

#2009-02-County of Sussex

Property Location: 83 Spring Street

Installation of raised plastic letters on rear of brick building to identify the Hall of Records. Plastic lettering is pin-mounted so back of letter flush to brick exterior surface. Lettering will duplicate size, color (white) and front style of previously installed exterior lettering.

SWORN: Joseph Biuso, County of Sussex, 1 Spring Street, Newton, NJ.

Mr. Biuso stated: We would like to be able to identify the Hall of Records. There are a number of persons that are still thinking that it is Shelby's and/or something else. It is the County Clerk's office that requested that we identify the building. We approached the building owner which is Dan Lapore and his agent Bill Vangrouw. Mr. Vangrouw indicated that the owner had previously appeared before the Newton Historic Preservation Commission and there are certain areas that are available on the building that have been designated through this commission for tenants. One of those places would be the area where we are planning on placing these letters. We have the owner's permission. I asked the owner if it was necessary for him to be here and he said it was not. Chairwoman Le Frois stated: There was two separate applications when this was submitted. One for lettering on the rear of the building and one for lettering on the front of the building. A question was if there were multiple tenants would there be multiple signage and would we be jeopardizing the sign ordinance. We are still okay with being in the guidelines with

the sign ordinance at this point. Mr. Biuso stated: Debbie Lockwood was the person I first spoke to about this and she reminded me that there is a certain square footage requirement and that is why we went to the owner to confirm what the size of the lettering could be. We tried to keep it very simple. We did not want it to say Hall of Records, County Clerk's Office, Passports, etc. We did not want to put it on the front of the building. We do have some discreet lettering on the glass and the entryway area. We have no intention of putting any information on the building regarding the Board of Taxation and the Board of Elections at this time. However, it is possible that they may ask that of us. Chairwoman Le Frois stated: Should we get to that point in time we will ask you to come back. You provided some color photos so could you tell me where on the building you are talking about the signage. You also indicated the lettering is going to be white it does not look like it is. Mr. Biuso stated: We can make it whatever color. The white may have come from previous tenants that were on the building. Chairwoman Le Frois stated: So it would be from Trinity Street would be from the top left corner of the building. Mr. Biuso stated: We can do the color you want. That is not a problem. Chairwoman Le Frois stated: You were talking about plastic too. What is this? Mr. Biuso stated: That is plastic. Chairwoman Le Frois questioned: Would it be over the window or between the window? Mr. Biuso stated: I can't answer that. Those areas were previously defined by this commission. If we need to clarify that, I can get that information.

Chairwoman Le Frois questioned: These are 6 inches? Mr. Becker questioned: 6 or 9 inches. Chairwoman Le Frois questioned: Are you putting on the front of the building as well or just the back? Mr. Biuso stated: The back. They are 9 inch letters on the back. Chairwoman Le Frois stated: The size and the color match the existing.

Chairwoman Le Frois questioned: Are they using the same manufacturer as the existing? Mr. Biuso stated: I don't who this buyer is using. I know the font, material, etc. is the same.

Mr. Read questioned: Is there going to be any lighting? Mr. Biuso stated: No.

Chairwoman LeFrois opened the floor to the public. With no public coming forward Chairwoman LeFrois closed this portion of the meeting.

Mr. Becker made a motion to approve the application with one change to make the letters match the color and the size to match the existing signage. Mrs. Schulte second the motion.

AYE: Mrs. Schulte, Mr. Read, Mr. Kaplan, Mr. Becker, Mr. Wright, Chairwoman Le Frois

Mr. Biuso stated: The last time we spoke about the fountain. We went down to look at it. I brought Karl Sylvester from my office who is an expert in many areas. We found that it is beyond our means using our forces in the County to disassemble then reassemble the fountain. It is possible at considerable expense to excavate and get under the monument and lift it from the foundation that was poured for it. We were very concerned about the viability of the foundation that is there if we were to put it on top of a trailer and move it up the hill it could fall apart. It appears to be an Indiana limestone and prone to breakage. There have been repairs that have been done to it over the years. We are reluctant to touch that due to doing damage. With a professional coming in and moving the cost would be somewhere between \$5,000 and \$10,000

to move it. The only way we would consider moving it is to disassemble the entire thing, put it in pieces, mark it all up, bring it to the new location and put it back together. I don't have the staff that is qualified to do that. There is a possibility that we could consider a grant application to the State Historic Preservation office and get funding. If we can produce information and make an application to them that holds out some prospects. Chairwoman Le Frois questioned: Is that something your office would be willing to do? Mr. Biuso stated: I think a collaborative approach between the Town and the County would be the best way like we did with the County Park. The best way would be to get an architect that specializes in that type of work. We just happen to have one that did the exterior of the courthouse. These guys are #2 in the State for historic applications. Hope Morgan Russell did the monument at High Point. They would be perfect for doing this. We would have to figure out how to get the funds necessary. The first part of that process usually entails someone coming up with the money to pay for the study to be done and then you can get money from the trust. That piece is amazing just from the story that I am hearing. It has a lot of potential for getting funding from the State. Mr. Wright stated: Maybe we could get the women's club to do a fundraiser. Mr. Biuso questioned: Would you like me to talk to Hope Morgan Russell to find out what the process is in their minds and what kind of fee we would be talking about? The Board responded: Yes. Mr. Biuso stated: There is actually a piece of piping sticking out and you can make the fountain work. There is no reason we couldn't run tap water out of the building. It would be nice to have a feature with water movement. I could see between moving that and restoring that you are talking somewhere between \$30,000 and \$50,000 to get it back where it is capable of being. Some of the stone has to be replaced or repaired. I think there was a semi-circular table between the two seats on the back side of the monument.

Mr. Wright stated: My aunt Hazel said that as a girl they used to go down and sit on it. Mr. Biuso questioned: Do you have any earlier photographs of it? Mr. Wright stated: No. The Historical Society has a negative of it. By the time it went to Memory Park it was not in great condition. You could use it as a water fountain still. Mr. Biuso questioned: It is dedicated to a person McMurty? Mr. Wright stated: McMurty were behind the Baptist parsonage. Mr. Biuso stated: She must have been a mover and a shaker in that movement. That is the kind of information they will need to assess it. They are going to all the research to divulge what the history of it is and what its contribution is to the community then and now. That can be the basis for an application for restoration. You have to do that part first.

Mr. Biuso stated: HMR is engaged with a couple of projects right now for us. When I have them I will march them down to the park and get a dialogue going with them. Then I can report back to you on how things going.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Wright stated: I went to Memory Park to look at the fountain and look around. I guess they moved the veteran's monument that used to stand in the green in between the road and the playground. The monument is surrounded by 17 maples for 17 Sussex County soldiers killed in World War I. Could we renew the effort to have 17 maples put back. Mr. Biuso stated: I am

ad hock to the Sussex County Shade Tree Commission and I run the tree bank. If you want free trees, we have them. Mr. Wright stated: I think the names are on the monument and 17 stuck in my mind. Mr. Biuso stated: We can help you out with that. We are always looking for stewards to take care of the trees that we grow. We placed hundreds of trees in Sussex County. The big thing for the Shade Tree Commission is getting people to take care of the trees that we give to them. If you are interested I can bring the subject up with the Shade Tree Commission and tell them you may have an interest. You just have to let me know.

CORRESPONDENCE - None

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kaplan made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Read second the motion. The meeting was adjourned with a unanimous “aye” vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm. The next regular scheduled meeting will be held on June 15, 2009 at 7:00 pm in the council chambers of the Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Citterbart
Historic Board Secretary