

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE LANDMARKS COMMISSION OF THE
BOROUGH OF SADDLE RIVER
HELD FEBRUARY 25, 2015**

PRESENT: Commission Chairman Jon Kurpis; Commission Members: Mary Bello, Gloria Blumenthal, Maria Harper, Joanne Kakaty, Ferne Lambert, John Lasalandra, Council Rep. Al Kurpis

ABSENT: Commission Member Michael Trepicchio

PRESIDING: The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

PUBLIC NOTICE: "Notice of this meeting in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act Chapter 231 of the laws of 1975, has been given by posting a notice of the scheduled dates of all regular meetings of the Landmarks Commission of the Borough of Saddle River on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building and in the office of the Borough Clerk and by emailing a notice thereof to the Herald News and The Record on December 31, 2014 and on the Borough website.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made to approve the October 22, 2014 minutes by Jon Kurpis. Seconded by Maria Harper
Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

REORGANIZATION

Appointment of Commission Chairman

A motion to appoint Jon Kurpis as Chairman of the Landmarks Commission was made by Joanne Kakaty. Seconded by Mary Bello
Voice Vote: All Ayes

Appointment of Commission Secretary

A motion to appoint Joy Convertini as Secretary to the Landmarks Commission was made by Jon Kurpis. Seconded by Gloria Blumenthal
Voice Vote: All Ayes

DESIGNATION/APPLICATIONS: There were none.

WORK SESSION:

Jon Kurpis stated that the Landmarks Commission is a very important committee in Saddle River as it preserves the rich history through its efforts.

Additionally, he updated the committee on the following:

- **The Saddle River Museum:** The floors have been re-sanded and re-finished and this project is now complete.
- **Bergen County Historic Site Survey:** Jon Kurpis is working with the County to insure that the rich history of Saddle River is accurately chronicled.

- **Communication with Senior Saddle River Residents:** Jon Kurpis stated that he has been in contact with some former residents born in Saddle River over 90 years ago. Their stories of life in Saddle River at that time are extremely interesting; one gentlemen shared a story about seeing Babe Ruth play baseball at the Wandell School field, which he did often. Jon Kurpis stated that he would like to interview one of these former residents in order to gain more information about Saddle River's past.

Jon Kurpis circulated an invitation to a Washington Birthday Ball from 1868 held at the Saddle River Hotel. This will be kept in the Saddle River Museum.

Jon Kurpis stated that a budget must be prepared for the Landmarks Commission and asked members to address budget items at this time. Mary Bello stated that additional landscaping at the Saddle River Museum is needed. Additionally, the artifacts for the museum were discussed at this time.

John Lasalandra stated that World History Day has been approved by the Wandell School and will be held in June. The fifth graders will tour the Saddle River Museum and learn about the artifacts and the history of Saddle River on display.

John Lasalandra further stated that the Landmarks Commission could hold fund raisers which could include a Historic Holiday Home Tour and a Gingerbread Making Contest. The Bishop House could be incorporated and Ferne Lambert asked about the possibility of hiring an event planner for these activities. This was discussed in detail at this time.

Ferne Lambert discussed the Bishop House; the structure is in need of work, the 501C-3 status has lapsed and there is no lease. She further stated that before events can be held at the Bishop House, repairs must be made but she is skeptical that the Borough will want to allocate funds without a purpose. Joanne Kakaty stated that if there is no direction or no one in charge of this project, it will be difficult to move forward. Ferne Lambert stated that getting volunteers to work with the Bishop House is very difficult.

John Lasalandra stated that a fund raiser could be held at the Bishop House but the 501C-3 is an essential part of the operation of the Bishop House. A list of the essential repairs must be made and it was suggested that Borough Engineer Martin Spence review this.

Jon Kurpis suggested that the Landmarks Commission come up with potential event ideas for the Bishop House to justify obtaining the funds to make the necessary repairs.

He further stated that each Landmarks Commission member bring an invaluable specialty to the table and he looks forward to working together in 2015.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the regular meeting of the Landmarks Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Joy C. Convertini
Secretary