

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE LANDMARKS COMMISSION OF THE  
BOROUGH OF SADDLE RIVER  
HELD February 26, 2014**

**PRESENT:** Commission Members: Mary Bello, Gloria Blumenthal, Joanne Kakaty, Jack LaViano, Michael Trepicchio; Council Rep. Al Kurpis

**ABSENT:** Commission Chairman Jon Kurpis, Commission Member Maria Harper

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**PRESIDING:** The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.; Commission Secretary Joy Convertini read the following statement:

**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 Ridgewood Newspapers and The Record on December 23, 2013 and on the Borough website.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion was made to approve the January 29, 2014 minutes by Commission Member Mary Bello. Second by Michael Trepicchio  
Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

**Appointment of Commission Vice Chairman Michael Trepicchio**

Motion Offered by Commission Member Jack LaViano  
Second by Commission Member Gloria Blumenthal  
Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

**WORK SESSION:**

**Bishop House:** Ferne Lambert of the Bishop House Foundation was present and explained the current status of the Bishop House. She stated that the Foundation does not have a lease and its non-profit status has lapsed. She further stated that she was seeking input and guidance about whether or not the Bishop House Foundation should continue as interest and use is waning. There is enough money left in the Foundation fund to reinstate the non-profit status which lapsed; approximately \$2500.00. The structure needs roof work as well as re-painting and decorating and it was suggested by Mayor Raia that the Foundation work together with the Landmarks Commission in order to determine how to proceed. The Commission discussed how the demographic has changed in Saddle River and potential uses and organizations were suggested including art shows, book clubs, girl scouts, jewelry shows, craft shows and senior citizens. Ms. Lambert stated that the key to the success of the Bishop House depends on community support. Al Kurpis stated that the majority of the Council are in favor of keeping the Bishop House running but an agenda must be established and presented in addition to outlining the necessary improvements.

Vice Chairman Trepicchio thanked Ms. Lambert for her report and asked that she keep the Commission apprised of the Bishop House's plans moving forward. Much has been accomplished with the Bishop House over the years and Ms. Lambert stated that its mission statement has been amended and would be presented to the Mayor and Council.

**DESIGNATION/APPLICATIONS:**

**Blk. 1401 Lot 17  
65 East Allendale Road  
Saddle River Financial Group  
Signage  
APPROVED**

Michael Parente, CLN Signs & Awnings presented the application and discussed it in detail at this time. The Commission was in receipt of an illustration of the proposed sign superimposed on the building and Mr. Parente brought a sample of the actual color being used. The sign will be in the exact location and the same dimensions as the previous sign on the building.

A motion to approve this application was offered by Commission Member Mary Bello  
Seconded by Joanne Kakaty  
Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

Vice Chairman Trepecchio stated that it is important for the Commission to consider the future of the Bishop House. Both utility and public interest will play an important role in the success of the Bishop House moving forward and other ideas were discussed at this time.

Joanne Kakaty suggested that the Bishop House Foundation re-introduce the facility to the public, perhaps with an Open House, in order to increase awareness and explore options for utility moving forward. The Garden Club will continue to plant on the Bishop House property.

She further stated that the Garden Club will be installing the landscaping material at the Saddle River Museum and will be working with Borough Engineer Martin Spence in order to complete the project by the Memorial Day Celebration.

**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