

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE LANDMARKS COMMISSION OF THE
BOROUGH OF SADDLE RIVER
HELD MARCH 23, 2016**

PRESENT: Commission Chairman Jon Kurpis; Commission Members: Gloria Blumenthal
Michael Treppchio, John Lasalandra, Joanne Kakaty, Ferne Lambert, And
Council Rep. Liz Salazer

ABSENT: Commission Members: Mary Bello Mutter, Maria Harper

PRESIDING: The meeting was called to order at 7:15 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 16, 2015 and on the Borough website.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made to approve the October 28, 2015 minutes by Ferne Lambert. Seconded by John Lasalandra
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 Michael Treppchio
Voice Vote: All Ayes

Appointment of Commission Vice Chairman

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

Appointment of Commission Secretary

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

DESIGNATION/APPLICATIONS:

**Wandell School
97 East Allendale Road
Blk. 1402 Lots 28
New signage for front of school
Carried**

Jon Kurpis suggested that this matter will be tabled to the next meeting. He explained that there are issues with the application. He further stated that, although he would like to make sure Wandell School gets what they

need, he wants to insure that issuing a Certificate of Appropriateness does not set precedence for everyone in the historic district to follow.

John Lasalandra stated that he did not feel he should vote as he sits on the Board of Education. He did want to inform that the new sign would not be any bigger. Also, to ease concerns of safety issues he wanted to inform the Commission that it will not be flashing. He felt the application should be resolved as soon as possible.

Joanne Kakaty stated that she liked the sign but, did not feel it was appropriate venue for anything other than school information.

It was discussed that there is nothing on the books to indicate that it would not set precedence for every business in town to follow suit. It was discussed that possibly the Commission could make a recommendation to the Planning Board to put something in the master plan to insure no future problems in approving the sign.

Michael Treppchio stated that we should also be setting standards, adding that the historic district encompasses both traditional and contemporary structures and those contemporary structures will become historical and add value. He suggested that the Commission may want to put together a master plan indicating standards and parameters for different structures. He further stated that this sign is a public service.

Joanne Kakaty suggested that the Landmarks Commission make a recommendation to the Council to approve it with a condition that similar signage would only be permitted for public service or municipal buildings.

Jon Kurpis stated he would convey to Thomas Dibiasi, the Planning Board lawyer. He would be able to guide us in writing something up, giving us peace of mind that every business and building in town follow suit.

It was suggested that someone get in touch with John Scialla, the Construction Official, to make sure it abides by all zoning ordinances.

The Commission addressed if this application would be heard by Zoning, Planning Board or Mayor and Council; it was not fully understood if this application was considered a minor or major application. Jon Kurpis stated that although it looks like it is going down the line of an approval he was concerned that they follow proper procedure. Jon Kurpis firmly suggested that they speak with Mr. DiBiasi first. He said he would do all the work to find out what they have to do legally. It was established that it will take priority at the next meeting.

WORK SESSION:

Overview of Landmarks Commission-2016 goals and projects

Jon Kurpis suggested that all Landmarks Commission members read over the borough code to fully understand the commissions charge. He stated that, as effective as the Commission has been, it should follow the letter of the code very closely. As important as it is to review applications for appropriateness, it is equally important to keep up with the designated and potential landmarks list, including the map. He indicated the importance of making the lists current and presenting them to the Board for approval. This will be further addressed at the May meeting.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

The Bishop House:

Joanne Kakaty Indicated she felt the Bishop house needed to be more authentic and worthwhile for the town. She further stated that Ferne has been working diligently but needs more support. She suggested having a committee for the Bishop House as the Museum does. Ferne Lambert was extremely concerned about safety issues i.e. the pavers and lighting in front of the walkway and this must become a priority. It was decided it needed to take precedence as it is a safety issue and not cosmetic. Ferne Lambert will get estimates for this work.

Jon Kurpis informed the commission that the Bishop House is supposed to have an advisory committee but it was never appointed, which is out of Landmark's jurisdiction and falls under Mayor and Council. It was decided that Council Rep. Liz Salazer will make this recommendation to the Mayor and Council. Jon Kurpis commended Ferne Lambert for doing such a good job with the Bishop House.

A motion was made to have Mayor and Council appoint an Advisory Committee for the Bishop House was made by Ferne Lambert. Seconded by John Lasalandra
Voice Vote: All Ayes

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Cremer
Secretary