Cranford Historic Preservation Advisory Board (HPAB)

Meeting via Zoom

January 29, 2021 7:30pm

Attendees:

Steven Saltzman

Teresa Bulger

William King

Jason Gareis

Jeffrey Pistol

Justin Van Dyk

Alan Lieberman

Loretta Smith

Amy Imhoff

Sarah Oliver

Steve Price

Nancy Price

Randy Geis  
  
**Appointment of Board Secretary** : Teresa Bulger, secretary for this meeting  
  
**Introductions of new members:** Justin Van Dyk (social studies teacher, Rutherford), Randy Geis (Loves history, family from Bayonne)

**Introduction of new Township Commissioner and Liaison** Jason Gareis (General interest in history, is liaison for a number of committees )  
  
**Report from Chair**  
-S. Saltzman registered on Cranford Patch and ran article on plaques, several new order

**Old Business:**Discussion of possible new projects and priorities

**150th anniversary Update** --- 2021 is Cranford’s 150th anniversary, March is the official date.

* - Jeffrey suggests the b/c of the sesquicentennial of Cranford, maybe a walking tour in conjunction with the 150th anniversary celebration. The walking tour could follow the QR code tour if the signs are up by that time. Could have one tour for the north and one for the south.
* September 18th “River Carnival” as keystone event. Hoping to do it at Nomahegan Park. With COVID restrictions, this may be converted into a land parade. Hoping to have monthly events. Cougar Headquarters on Centennial Ave working to produce commemorative items (fundraiser…for what?). Cranford Heritage Corridor is also planning monthly events, bicycle tour or race, dance, Cranford days

**QR Code Tour**

- John Prescott is the point of contact at the County, will be the person who can clarify the wording for the County’s credit line. Nancy and Steve will also ask if we need to wait to spend funds and get reimbursement, or if we have to wait for disbursement to start the building of the signs.

**Cranford Master Plan - Historic Preservation Element** – Steven

- Provides overview of the HPE document. Presented to the Planning Board in 2019, they took it under advisement, we were given revision suggestions by Jason Boucher, we updated the document in Fall of 2019 and it has since been dormant.

**Observations about last Planning Board Meeting**

* S. Saltzman attended most recent meeting, noticed that there were new members. As such, we may need to make a new presentation altogether, and this perhaps can wait until the Fall 2021.
* Jason G. notes that as a new person on the planning board, we should possibly reach out to the chair of the Board

Possible letter to Planning Board  
Volunteers needed to attend Planning Board meetings for the first 2-3 months of this year to urge them to take up and pass HPE  
  
**Plaques** - Alan, Bill, Kinney, Loretta, Amy  
- Ads in Suburban News and the Cranford Patch. Sold six (6) plaques

New orders - do we buy more now?

* We are now 1 plaque short of our orders, so should we order a full 11-Plaque Order (to get the $124/plaque for an order of 11 deal; fewer than 11, the cost per plaque is $198)
* S. Saltzman will write another article to advertise plaques. It is decided that the Board will not order a new set until we have a few more guaranteed orders, as we do not want to have an excess of extra plaques.
* Amy - pictures of recently purchased plaques. Amy has information on the purchasers that she could reach out to and get more pics and put them on the Facebook Page.
* Contact new plaque owners in Sunny Acres - Loretta

- No update RE: Update map to reflect all plaque purchasers – Kinney (Not Present)  
              35 Spruce St.; 113 Alden Road;   807 West End Place; 319 North Union Ave  
  
 **Sunny Acres Design Guidelines**- Maureen, Loretta  
Guidelines to be based on NAPC guidelines - Maureen  
We discussed two levels of detail –

* No Update, Maureen MacDougall not present. Loretta will follow up with Maureen about her status with respect to serving on the board.
* Exact physical placement of signage with respect to existing signage and local regulations still needs to be determined.

**Audio tour** of Cranford Historic sites - Steve, Nancy  
We need to follow up with John Sandy of TSS ([www.trafficsafetyservice.com](http://www.trafficsafetyservice.com/))  
Contact DMC head ?  Additional support on this project!

- (see above for next steps, reaching out to J. Prescott)

- Need to get verbiage approved from county then W. King can help to finalize design. Following this, we will need to liase with the town to coordinate and supervise installation.

-Maureen Strazdon has indicated informally that she is handing the project over to HPAB-  
  
**Social media**   
HPAB Facebook page updates - who can do this?  
Other social media?

- Randy indicates that he is willing to become involved in generating social media posts for the facebook page.   
- Amy and Randy will work together

**River tour brochure** – Teresa

No Update.

Plan to have this done by canoe Season, can possibly be part of the publicity around the Cranford 150th anniversary.

**YouTube posting** of the History/Architecture DVD – Kinney

No update, Kinney not present.   
  
**Variances** - Ron  
- Ron not present, but S. Saltzman reports that there was one variance related to a property on South Ave near the Dunkin Donuts (E. F. Britten and Co. brick building that was former industrial property). Mixed use building planned.

- In the future the Variances will be shared with the Board to evaluate if the variance concerns the historical significance of the building at issue and the impact of a potential new building on its physical context.

**HPAB statement on the cell tower** on UCC campus hearings - Steve and Nancy

- At the last meeting, Nancy Price was sworn in and read the Statement (HPAB + CHS statement from at least a year ago). This statement laid out our joint opinion on the impact of the potential tower on the historic properties which surround it. Nancy was informed that SHPO has made in their formal opinion and they said that there was no adverse effect to historic properties associated with the cell tower.

-Nancy and Steve P. do not anticipate going to Feb meeting (attorney summations) but do plan to go to the following meeting.

**HPAB Postal Delivery**

- Previously we had mail delivered to the Hansen House but this will have to change.

- Jason G. will inquire as to whether HPAB can get a cubby-hole in the Municipal Building for HPAB. Currently closed to the public, this may pose a problem to picking up mail.

**New business:**  
\* Pro-actively promote prestige of HPAB at every opportunity  
    Need all board members to email details of all professional certifications and advanced degrees   
  
\* HPAB website - all links need to work, new information needs to be posted regularly to engage public

* Ideas for new projects?
* Randy G. Suggests a logo design contest for HPAB, among ourselves or wider, for facebook? All HPAB members should bring ideas to next meeting.

**Website**

- S. Saltzman will do the review the website to update copy, and W. King will assist in the revitalization of the website which at this point is 10 years old. No due date for this project; will be ongoing this year.

**ACCOUNTING:** on 1/19 transfer of $454.15 from paypal to Spencer Bank from 3 purchases of plaques and one of CD (this last purchase should be returned as we give CD with plaques).  Reported by S. Saltzman that we have $6506.63 in the bank

* Treasurer?

**Next meeting** Thursday Feb. 25