

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chm. Jeffrey Bianco, Vice Chw. Elizabeth Warner left at 6:08 P.M., Sec'y Henry Novicki, Barbara Corvo, Diane Gallitto, Brian Kronenberger, Stephen Shapiro arrived at 5:35 P.M.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Nancy Conaway-Raczka

STAFF:

William Warner, Acting Director, Hope P. Kasper, Administrative Secretary

This meeting was the reorganizational meeting of the Preservation Board to nominate new officers. On motion and second by Elizabeth Warner and Barbara Corvo the Board elected Jeffrey Bianco as Chairman. Vote was unanimous. On On motion and second by Barbara Corvo and Henry Novicki the Board elected Elizabeth as Vice-Chairwoman and Henry Novicki as Secretary. Vote was unanimous.

Chm. Jeffrey Bianco opened the Preservation Board meeting of January 14, 1992 at 5:00 P.M. The first item on the agenda was approval of the minutes. On motion and second by Board members Barbara Corvo and Henry Novicki the minutes were unanimously approved.

Second item on the agenda was guest speaker Dionne Longly, representing the Middlesex County Historical Society. Dionne Longly representative from the Middlesex County Historical Society attended the Preservation Board meeting not as a guest speaker but to comment on the discussion the Preservation Board is having concerning a proposal for a Land Mark Ordinance. Kathy Bennett also from the Middlesex County Historical Society attended the meeting for the same purpose to comment on the Land Mark Ordinance proposal.

Third item on the agenda was the Planning and Zoning Commission's proposal regarding heights of buildings in the Central Business zone. Stephen Shapiro spoke regarding the pros and cons of limiting the heights of buildings in the Downtown area north of Court Street. He felt in this economic time that limiting the heights of buildings in this area would discourage any new development. He suggested that a Design Review Committee be organized with advisory authority to review new building construction in the downtown area north of Court Street rather than limit the heights of buildings.

Chm. Jeffrey Bianco felt that to limit the heights of buildings in the downtown area was a positive beginning to preserving the character of the this area. He also felt that a minimum of two stories be required and the bulk requirements be modified to clearly define to a developer the requirements of the downtown area.

After further lengthy discussion on motion and second by Board members Stephen Shapiro and Henry Novicki the Board tabled further discussion until their next meeting. The vote was unanimous.

Fourth item on the agenda was the continued discussion regarding the

proposed Land Mark ordinance. Upon request by the Preservation Board the Acting Planning Director, William Warner, prepared a summary outlining the process to designate land marks in Middletown. After review and discussion, Chm. Jeffrey Bianco requested that Planning and Zoning staff request a legal opinion asking whether or not the Preservation Board can assume the duties and responsibilities of the Historic Properties Study Committee and the Historic Properties Commission. Chm. Jeffrey Bianco also requested the staff send a letter to the Mayor asking if the Mayor would be willing to designate the Preservation Board as the Historic Properties Study Committee and Historic Properties Commission.

After discussion concerning the guidelines for land mark property and an analysis of the structures, Kathy Bennett asked if the inventories written by the Greater Middletown Preservation Trust could be used to evaluate the land marks. A decision was not made by the Board. Dionne Longly expressed that the Middlesex County Historical Society was interested in protecting burial grounds. She said that many older cemeteries were not maintained.

The consensus of the Board was to table the discussion pending a legal opinion from the City Attorney.

Adjournment was at 6:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Hope P. Kasper
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Administrative Secretary

*approved
3/10/92*