MIDDLETOWN PRESERVATION & DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

MINUTES **MARCH 13, 1996**

PRESENT	ABSENT	ALSO PRESENT
J. Bianco	E. Warner	
B. Kronenberger	D. Brown	B. Bozzi
J. Fortuna	vacancy	L. Osborne
A. Tommasi		C. Wilcox, staff
P. Evans		
N. Goff		

Chairman, J. Bianco called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. in Room B-15 in the Municipal Building. He asked that a new agenda item be placed first to accommodate an applicant for design review in one of Middletown's historic districts. Architect, Lee Osborne presented plans to the Board for an addition to the Synagogue on its Broad Street side to accommodate an elevator and other needed amenities. With both plans and photographs of the existing Broad Street facade, Mr. Osborne explained that the plan was to pull out the existing center section of detail including the large windows, approximately eight feet toward the street. The windows would be stored during construction and restored in order to be put back. They would be lit from the inside using back lighting on a light sensor timer. The result would present almost the exact same facade to the street, only deeper by eight feet in its center section. He also went on to discuss details of the finish. The bricks are not a standard size, however, they will match the face brick. All scroll work and precast concrete will be duplicated from molds made from the originals. Mr. Osborne and the Board went on to discuss the three- floor interior plan, a future ramp and low wall for handicap access and the details on the light boxes. The roof will be a membrane and it will be pitched. After more discussion, a motion was made by P. Evans, seconded by J. Fortuna and voted unanimously to commend the design as presented on the addition to the synagogue; and to assure the Architect of any approvals as may be needed by the Board, as a result of this project. (Mr. Osborne left)

Minutes

A motion was made by J. Fortuna, seconded by B. Kronenberger to accept the minutes as written. A. Tommasi asked that any spelling mistakes of her name be corrected if necessary. There were no errors in the minutes which were presented.

St. Sebastian's Convent

Staff reported that the deadline for proposals had been extended by the EDC to March 31st (that being a Sunday, the practical deadline is April 1st). The Board suggested submitting an article to the paper indicating that the deadline had been extended, in case there was more developer interest in the community. They also had suggested possibly adding a flyer to a Chamber of Commerce mailing.

Long Hill Estate

Staff reported on the progress of the Wadsworth Mansion Building Committee which is currently packaging the financial details to take to the Budget & Finance Committee and the Council next month. Roy Gilley has submitted updated construction costs and the Committee has been working hard to make sure that all other soft cost and site costs are included. The financial proformas still look very good.

Logo Contest

As a result of the request for a Logo/Slogan contest which Bill Warner had requested at the Board last month, half of the Board of the Planning Office and of the Mayor's Office have issued Press Releases and indicated that the judges will be a subcommittee appointed by the Preservation and Design Review Board. P. Evans had formerly agreed to serve as one of those judges as she serves on both the Board and Arts Commission. J. Fortuna also indicated that he would like to serve. J. Bianco suggested Dave Wolfram and Sam Katz and he will contact them to see if they would be interested.

Preservation Week

The Board discussed the program for preservation week which is May 12th through May 18th. It was their desire that the program focus on Long Hill; and they wished the speakers to be Tom Elmore and/or Phil Barlow who are doing the historic landscape research for the Rockfall Grant and the Long Hill Estate Stewardship Committee. Staff will contact Mr. Elmore to see if he will be a speaker. The Board also discussed whether or not to meet in a different historic house than deKoven House. Their preference would be to meet at Russell House, this year, but still to have the program be a cosponsorship with the Rockfall Foundation. The Logo/Slogan contest prize will also be given at this event. The Committee agreed that the preservation awards ceremony and program would be on Wednesday May 15th; and staff will contact both Wesleyan for the Russell House, and Ginny Rollefson for the Rockfall co-sponsorship. The Board went on to indicate a short list of possible candidates for the preservation awards; and asked that staff mail the list with addresses so that the Board will be able to vote on it at the April meeting. This list is attached as part of the minutes. The April meeting will be on Wednesday the 10th.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:00.

Cynthia G. Wilcox

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