

PRESERVATION BOARD  
Minutes: October 20, 1992

PRESENT

J. Bianco, Chairman  
B. Kronenberger  
D. Gallitto  
D. Vinci  
S. Shapiro (5:20)

ABSENT

B. Corvo  
N. Conaway-Raczka  
H. Novicki

ALSO PRESENT

C. Wilcox, Staff

Chairman J. Bianco welcomed Debby Vinci to the Board and went on to outline its various initiatives.

- 1) The first is the preservation awards program whereby Board members submit nominations and plaques are awarded. Last year, the Board recognized three preservation Projects.
- 2) The second project is initiation of a program/contest for fourth graders in Middletown schools whereby the students would draw a picture of their favorite old building. A bicycle was mentioned as a prize.
- 3) Ann Street of the Greater Middletown Preservation Trust had made a presentation and asked the Board for a donation toward the matching funds needed for a grant from the National Trust to create a charette of what the DOT proposals for Route 9 would look like - using the model in the lobby and perhaps a video.

Discussion ensued on these topics:

1. Awards - mention was made of the South Church Steeple as a likely candidate for the Preservation award and discussion ensued on other Church renovations such as 1st Church, Holy Trinity and the Masonic Temple. D. Gallitto questioned the timing and number of awards; and the Board agreed that one award per year might be more effective, and that Spring (maybe Preservation week) would be a good time to present it. S. Shapiro felt the awards brought good publicity, and the Board should create a fan-fare around this project. Board members were asked to bring their list of nominees to the next meeting.
2. School Contest - D. Gallitto and S. Shapiro both suggested expanding the contest to older students. Staff was asked to find out which grades study Middletown history, and the contest would target those grades. Discussion about the prize followed, with the suggestion that it be a savings bond rather than a bicycle.

3. DOT Charette: J. Bianco described the DOT preliminary plans to eliminate the lights on Route 9, and recounted a meeting at the deKoven House with GMPT, City and DOT representatives. He made a motion to contribute \$100 from their budget to the GMPT, to match National Trust funding to create a mock-up of what the changes might like, if built. B. Kronenberger seconded the motion and discussion followed. S. Shapiro noted that this was not the purpose of the Preservation Board; that the budgets had already been cut; and that this is an inappropriate use of funds. He felt the money should be used to promote preservation, and that this project was not relevant to preservation. J. Bianco disagreed, indicating the proposed changes to Rt. 9 would impact historic structures and would alter the historic landscape. He further commented on Middletown's historic connection with the river. S. Shapiro noted video's can be done for free. There being no further discussion and no resolution to the question, B. Kronenberger moved to table the motion, S. Shapiro seconded and all voted in favor.

Upon a motion by S. Shapiro, seconded by D. Gallitto and voted unanimously, meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

  
Cynthia G. Wilcox

CGW/lmk