The Historic New Bridge Landing State Park Commission Annual Report for 2017

Respectfully submitted to the Governor and Legislature of New Jersey
B. Spencer Newman’s painting depicts the darkest hour of the American Revolution, when General George Washington led the outnumbered Continental garrison of Fort Lee across the Hackensack River at New Bridge on November 20, 1776. Doubtful to the last moment, this crossing preserved American hopes in the face of invasion by an army of Europe’s finest troops. Eyewitness-to-history Thomas Paine stands in the left foreground. Literally occupying the Crossroads of the American Revolution, the Zabriskie-Steuben House—the only extant house along the route of the retreat in Bergen County—went on to survive more of the war than any other home in America. The State of NJ acquired this landmark dwelling in 1928 as a perpetual memorial to the “times that try men’s souls.”
Dear Governor Chris Christie and Legislators:

Pursuant to our responsibilities under Public Law 2009, chapter 45, the Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission submits this annual report for 2017. 2017 has been another banner year for Historic New Bridge Landing. The key to our success is consistently exciting and innovative programming that not only attracts new audiences, but repeat visitors as well.

We succeed because we understand quality programming depends not only upon having an interesting and engaging story to tell, but also on coordinating the talents of highly motivated and well educated volunteers from a variety of professions, who generously share their enthusiasm with guests, and, most importantly, who create a pervasive culture of hospitality, respect for the lessons of our history and a commitment to stewardship over a significant American Revolutionary War battleground, which gave life to our nation.

The Bergen County Historical Society presently creates, funds and staffs all programming at Historic New Bridge Landing, both on its own property and on adjacent state parkland, including at the landmark Steuben House. The Historical Society, an all volunteer, non-profit 501(c)(3) historical association, founded in 1902, does not apply for or receive public operating support or other governmental grants, funding the maintenance of its own property at Historic New Bridge Landing and its various activities and operations through membership dues, donations, fundraising and event income.

We continue to believe the Historic New Bridge Landing State Park Commission is a potential model for a more effective and efficient operation of state assets as well as a more economical expenditure of state funds. Since the commission is not subject to civil service regulations, it can employ local persons and contract with local businesses without adding to the growing public burden of pensions and benefits. The park commissioners not only represent local stakeholders—representation on the commission reflecting their respective land holdings within the park—, who know what is best for their communities, but they also provide private professional oversight without compensation from the state treasury. This is a win-win situation that continues to be ignored. The state-owned portion of Historic New Bridge Landing remains the only unfunded state historic site and state park in New Jersey, even though it embodies the only state parkland in Bergen County, the state’s most populous county.

We further believe there is great potential to strengthen the regional economy through heritage tourism, if only we could overcome the backwardness in funding this virtually unrecognized and untapped opportunity.

Respectfully submitted,
James Smith, Chairman,
Historic New Bridge Landing State Park Commission
The Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission December 2017

Larry Bauer (Teaneck)

Open (Teaneck)

James Bellis (Blauvelt-Demarest Foundation)

Mary Donohue (River Edge), Vice-Chairwoman

Eric Pain, DEP Commissioner's Designee and Superintendent, Ringwood State Park

Deborah Powell (Bergen County Historical Society), Secretary

Thea Sirrochi-Hurley (New Milford)

James Smith (Bergen County Historical Society), Chairman

Adam Strobel (County of Bergen)

John Heffernan (Alternate for the Bergen County Historical Society).
2017 Pictorial Year in Review (Snapshots of Events at Historic New Bridge Landing)

Washington’s Birthday is a favorite event

Brigit’s Day Quilt Exhibit

Battleground Tour begins at the Steuben House
Memorial Day at Gen. Enoch Poor's grave site

Lantern Walking Tour

Vintage Baseball at HNBL
1812 Dress on Exhibit

A music lesson

Memorial Concert for Kevin Wright by Linda Russell & Companie
Museum Committee viewing their handiwork

Cooks cooking in the Outkitchen

BCHS Awards Ceremony
Lecture in the Steuben House

B. Spencer Newman Painting of New Bridge. Donated in memory of Kevin Wright to BCHS by D. Powell

Retreat/Invasion Weekend
Porch and shudders received new coats of paint as protective maintenance.

New Museum Plans are being finalized.

Time to take the family photo at Historic New Bridge Landing.

Porch and shudders received new coats of paint as protective maintenance.
Audit and Financial Statement

We respectfully, but regretfully, report that the Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission has not administered or expended any state funds in the administration of the Steuben House or Historic New Bridge Landing State Park during 2017. The Department of Environmental Protection has not provided us with any accounting of State monies expended by the NJDEP or the Division of Parks & Forestry at Historic New Bridge Landing State Park during 2017. We continue to work with all parties so that the Historic New Bridge Landing State Park Commission can receive funding that can be administered locally for the benefit of all entities at Historic New Bridge Landing.

Meeting schedule for 2018

The Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission will meet at 1201-1209 Main Street, River Edge, N. J., 07661 at 7:00 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month a, namely, January 4, February 1, March 1, April 5, May 3, June 7, July 11 (2nd Wednesday due to July 4 Holiday week), August 2, September 6, October 4, November 1, and December 6.
Public Events for 2017

Under its General Management Plan, the Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission seeks to preserve Historic New Bridge Landing for the purposes of public education and enjoyment by implementing a varied program of heritage interpretation. The setting of a museum village is used to provide visitors of different age groups and levels of interest with an authentic historical experience. The Bergen County Historical Society presently provides all interpretation and programming at Historic New Bridge Landing, relying on volunteers and admissions (usually $7 per adult and $5 for children). Even when the state staffed the Steuben House, there was no operating budget for programming, the primary attraction at historic sites. Despite these limitations, the public enjoys a full schedule of quality programs. Events are well attended and programs play to capacity audiences. The following was the schedule for 2017:

Sunday, January 8, 2017  Twelfth Night BCHS Member Party, 2-5 pm
Wednesday, January 18, 2017  School of Interpretation, 7:30 pm
Sunday, January 29, 2017  Bridget’s Day, Ladies Ramble Quilt Exhibit
Wednesday, February 15, 2017  School of Interpretation, 7:30 pm
Thursday, February 16, 2017  Lecture Program, 7:30 pm Louis Picone on Presidents and Places
Sunday, February 19, 2017  A Country Ball celebrating the 285th Anniversary of Washington’s Birthday
Wednesday, March 15, 2017  School of Interpretation, 7:30 pm
Thursday, March 16, 2017  Lecture Program, 7:30 pm
Sunday, March 18, 2017  Under the Shad Moon
Saturday, April 1, 2017  Spring Clean Up
Saturday, April 8, 2017  Battleground Tour with Todd Braisted, 10-12:30 pm
Wednesday, April 19, 2017  School of Interpretation, 7:30 pm
Thursday, April 20, 2017  Lecture Program, 7:30 pm
Sunday, May 7, 2017  Authors’ Day at HNBL, 1-5 pm
Wednesday, May 17, 2017  School of Interpretation, 7:30 pm
Thursday, May 18, 2017  Lecture Program, 7:30 pm
Sunday, May 21, 2017  Pinkster, 1-5 pm
Saturday, May 27, 2017  BCHS Memorial Event for Kevin Wright, at the suggestion of Linda Russell & Co., music & food, begin 3 pm.

Saturday June 3, 2017  Brett Park Clean-up. 8-11 am
Sunday July 2, 2017  Lantern Tour. 7 pm
Saturday July 8, 2017  Vintage Baseball, Flemington Neshanock vs. the NY Mutuals. 11-1 pm

Wednesday, Sept 20, 2017  School of Interpretation. 7:30 pm
Saturday, Sept 23, 2017  Grounds Clean up, 8-11 am
Thursday, Sept 28, 2017  BCHS lecture program, 7:30 pm. Note date change.
Saturday, Sept 30, 2017 Baronfest, A birthday celebration of Major-General Baron von Steuben’s at his Jersey Estate, 1-5 pm

Wednesday, October 18, 2017 School of Interpretation, 7:30 pm
Sunday, October 22, 2017 Harvest Homecoming, 1:30–5 pm
Thursday, October 26, 2017 Lecture Series, 7:30 pm

Sunday, November 5, 2017 Mitzvah Day 10–12 noon
Sunday, November 12, 2017 Veteran Day Wreath laying, off site
Wednesday, November 15, 2017 School of Interpretation, 7:30 pm
Thursday, November 16, 2017 Lecture Series, 7:30 pm
Sat & Sun, November 18 & 19 Invasion & Retreat Weekend

Sunday December 3 Sinter Klaas Day Open House 1 – 4pm
Saturday December Decorating HNBL 10 AM to 4 PM
Sat.&Sun December 16th & 17th Annual Colonial Christmas Concerts
I. Open Public Meetings Act Statement
Chairman Jim Smith read the Open Public Meetings Act statement at 7:10 pm.

II. Attendance
James Smith, M. Donohue; E. Pain; D. Powell; Thea Sirocchi-Hurley, A. Strobel
Excused: W. J. Oddie, J. Bellis Sr., L. Bauer
Richard Karp; BCHS Past President J. Heffernan, BCHS Trustee Carol Restivo, Asst
Director State Park Service John Trontis were in attendance.

III. Review of Minutes
Review of the Minutes of the Meeting of December 1, 2017. Motion to approve; M.
Donohue T.Sirocchi-Hurley; second. A.Stroble abstained. **Motion carried.**

IV. Calendar

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V. Chairman’s Report

Good afternoon everyone,
I hope that 2017 finds you all well and I look forward to working with everyone in the year ahead. This past month saw Historic New Bridge Landing busy as always, with the Annual Sinter Klaas open house and the 33rd Annual Christmas Concert, a true Bergen County tradition. While both events had a somber tone, with the passing
January marks an unusually busy month, with the Annual Twelfth Night Celebration and two new events: January 14th, there will be a talk on and viewing of Eagles at New Bridge, as well as examining the roll of the BCHS at New Bridge Landing and history of the Meadowlands. The month wraps up with Brigit’s Day, which will feature a quilt exhibit and activities for children young and old alike. In other business, a fire inspection was completed of the Campbell Christie House and report was requested. The Fire and Alarm Company for the house was able to conduct a updated inspection of the system as well, and will be generating a report for the Fire Marshall of Bergen County shortly. I also want to thank Mary D. of River Edge, for reaching out to PSEG to repair/replace the street light that was out on Hackensack Ave and Main St., it is a quality of life and added security issue, and want to recognize New Milford for moving the 1776 Retreat Sign from being on the bridge to 75 feet before the bridge, as was discussed and executed.

At the December meeting we discussed introducing “New Bridge 250.” Moving forward I would like to continue to discuss this and look at goals and objectives we can agree upon. For instance with Teaneck, how can the Commission assist further with Brett Park? If the Commission were funded, would an additional yearly clean out and eventual trail maintenance be favorable? When looking at New Milford and River Edge, what can be done by both parties to connect to New Bridge? Signage, streetscape projects, advertising events?

Thank you.
James Smith, Chairman
Historic New Bridge L State Park State Park Commission

VI.

A. **Teaneck**
   Representatives not available.

B. **New Milford** -- Thea Sirocchi-Hurley, Commissioner New Milford Representative
   Thea Sirocchi-Hurley noted busy with New Milford busy with development in town. Jim Smith inquired about grants for streetscape improvements. T. Sirocchi-Hurley said she was meeting with representatives in coming week. D. Powell asked if her report could be emailed for inclusion to Park Commission report.

C. **River Edge** -- Mary Donohue, Commissioner River Edge Representative
   1. Mary Donohue, River Edge Commissioner has been in contact several times with Mayor Mignone regarding the PSEG appointment re the disposition of the sub-station property — no news. PSEG will contact Mayor Mignone re the next meeting – which we hope will have long-awaited good news for us at HNBL.
2. M. Donohue said she was in contact with County Clerk Hogan to update contact list with the new representatives including new Congressman Josh Gottheimer.

3. M. Donohue suggests New Milford and Teaneck request the same.

4. M. Donohue reported a mix-up with the Public Works of RE regarding moving the Retreat sign for a better location with more visibility. They requested a letter and location photograph from the Park Commission asking for this. The River Edge Cultural Commission requested use of the Steuben House for an exhibit on Alexander Hamilton $1,000 grant. PSEG is working on replacing the light bulb in the parking lot.

Jim Smith noted it is an interesting idea, Kevin Wright transcribed and interpreted a letter Hamilton wrote from New Bridge. He explained BCHS opens the site multiple times a month with volunteer staff. Eric Pain asked if they would be required to get insurance. Jim asked if the Retreat sign could go on a post stub along Main Street near Hackensack Avenue. Mary requested an email with information outlined. Adam Stroble expressed an interest in putting up new signs along the Retreat route, he asked who produced them orginally. He advised the County of Bergen sign shop may be able to produce them and reinstall them along the route. Jim deferred to Deborah. She noted that for the November Retreat that Jim Smith arranged for a large group of reenactors, as part of the interpretation, to walk from Fort Lee to New Bridge in time for the battle at New Bridge. It was acknowledged a survey of the Retreat sign status should be done. John Trontis brought up the Crossroads signs, a 4 foot sign which is much bigger. Noreen Bodman from Crossroads has not visited New Bridge. Mary sent a letter requesting signage on Route 4 and Parkway to the DOT with no response. John Trontis said there have been problems trying to get DOT to place signs.

C. County of Bergen Adam Stroble, Bergen County Division of Open Space

Adam Stroble asked for more information on scope of Retreat signs, he would be willing to pursue it on his end. He has made progress with County Purchasing agent with Gary Hemmer on the new bollards for the Bridge. He was unclear if weather would affect when they could be installed. He apologized for the lack of progress with addressing the tidal flap that allows the river water problem by the flag pole. Adam Stroble spoke about the Rutgers and the County of Bergen’s Park survey and public meetings scheduled for the 10th and 12th. He encouraged everyone to attend. Jim asked if the drainage problem was not progressing because a permit is required. Adam acknowledged that permitting was being considered, the camera analysis still needs to be done. They thought some of work may not need a permit. John Trontis said that most maintenance activities does not require a DEP permit. Adam said if it is a capital improvement it would need a permit. Jim said he understood the pipe component but he said when they dug the drain-- the pipe goes from Coles Brook to the Society’s property and the drain goes around the States property -- not on it and then back out to the Hackensack River. Where it comes onto the Society’s property you can see where the gully is filled in with phragmites. He would like to clear them out to prevent water
backing up on to BCHS property. Jim pointed out the Park Survey Plan the plan did not have mention of historic sites as a reason to go to parks. Adam asked if he took the survey, Jim said he looked through it. Deborah Powell said she did, that historic site is not preprogramed so you are going to get a certain result if you don't have the preprogrammed answer like “bird watching” and “dog walking”. She asked if it was because kids were designing it. Adam said no, that an inventory and survey was done last summer, but added he didn’t know answer to that, could be an honest oversight. Deborah Powell said she appreciates the County taking the initiative in looking at the bigger picture and working on park planning, a pretty big idea. Mary Donohue said this is the only State Park in Bergen County so it should be included. Deborah said that begs questions whether we should have been involved in the park survey planning as a stakeholder. Adam noted it is a County of Bergen park plan and the sensitivities at New Bridge. Adam noted the other public meeting dates.

D. DEP – Steuben House Eric Pain, DEP Representative, Superintendent Ringwood State Park

1/5/17

Masonry Project: Project complete. Contractor will touch up area near electrical fixture in the spring. John Trontis asked if mason would do the patch.

Electric Meter Relocation: Ringwood Maintenance Staff met with Nu-Star Electrical to discuss the details of the project. Contact was made with PSE&G and they have shared that a site visit will be coordinated within 4-6 weeks.

Floor Refinishing: Ringwood State Park Staff solicited bids from three contractors. 2 have responded. Quotes are available for review. An application for project authorization has been prepared for review by the Historic Preservation Office. Once the project is approved by SHPO it will be carefully coordinated around the schedule of events. Timeline for the project is 5-7 days. Eric wondered if HPO would approve staining the floor. D. Powell pointed out the floors are from the WPA, 1930s, a previous State restoration. J. Trontis said to write the description to SHPO that staining matches what was done back then. E. Pain said goal is to even it out and protect wood. E. Pain said quotes will be shared. J. Trontis explained there is a shortage of funds in the department.

Attic Light Fixture: Ringwood State Park Maintenance Staff met with Nu-Star Electric onsite to solicit information about replacing the existing track lighting with an LED Fixture. The estimate that came back for the replacements were $5786.00 For an LED fixture and bulbs versus $3156.00 for a traditional track lighting fixture with LED bulbs. My suggestion is install to 2-3 individual fixtures and utilize LED bulbs. Further discussion required. D. Powell said it is really a question of being able to work up there, there is currently only one bulb. There are outlets. Consider whether it is a tripping hazard. D. Powell agreed that we should do what is practical.
**Alarm Codes:**

It is apparent that individual codes are not been being used for purposes of arming and disarming the security system at the Steuben House. In light of recent incidents that left the doors to the Steuben House unsecure I am reminding everyone that it is critical that each of us utilize our individually assigned codes for entrance and exit. Codes are currently available for James Smith, Deborah Powell, Adam Strobel, John Oddie, John Heffernan, and Mary Donohue. Some discussion took place after the last meeting that perhaps it is not necessary for all of the aforementioned individuals to have alarm codes.

Codes were given to Jim Smith, D. Powell and J. Heffernan. M. Donohue asked for a letter noting she has no code. A. Stroble asked also. E. Pain noted the front door was left unlocked twice. SMS is the security company for the Steuben House. Adam asked if there was a lock box and asked if there should there be. Eric said there was not one. Jim asked for more research related to museums.

**Landscaping Projects**

**Winter Maintenance**

Green Meadows Landscaping will provide winter maintenance for the 2017-2018 winter season. Eric said there were complaints about the snow plowing. Jim said the job was well done in time for the event. D. Powell asked who complained. E. Pain said it may have been the person who previously had the contract. She asked what was discussed about the meter. Eric said PSEG was complicated where an electrician needs to be on site to explain. Quote could come in at $50,000 with a new and third pole. An interior meter option came up. Jim Smith mentioned the 250 Anniversary and the 1767 date of the Townshend Act corresponds to the date the Steuben House was enlarged to present size. At that time a tax on glass was imposed and J. Smith suggested replacing the smudged plexi-glass in the miller’s room with antique or repro glass. D. Powell added it will forward interpreting the history of the house because the miller had to keep an eye on the tidemill and his ever changing work schedule due to the moon and its effects on the tide.

**Red Oak Trees/Tree Survey**

To be completed in the spring of 2017

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**E. Blauvelt-Demarest Foundation**

No report

**F. Bergen County Historical Society**

D. Powell advised that Chairman Jim Smith covered most of BCHS news.

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**VII. New Business**

Eric Pain thought it was good to work on an Emergency Plan. J. Trontis noted Historic Preservationists met at Twin Lights and there should be a state plan
available. D. Powell noted she has been preparing an Emergency Plan for BCHS as part of the FEMA application which included conservator resources and floor plans for each building with door measurements and locations, fire extinguisher locations, etc. T. Sirocchi-Hurley observed many towns do not have emergency plans. Jim said we appreciate all the help and cooperation we receive from the town, the police, fire and DPW departments.

VIII. Public Comment
No public comment

IX. Adjournment
Motion to adjourn: T. Sirocchi-Hurley, first, M. Donohue; second. Motion carried.

X. Next Meeting
The next regular meeting of the Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission will be held at 7 PM at Historic New Bridge Landing, 1201-1209 Main Street, River Edge, New Jersey, 07661 on January 5, 2017, meet in the Campbell-Christie House. Future meeting are scheduled February 2, 2017.

Meeting of the Historic New Bridge Landing State Park Commission Feb 2, 2017

I. Open Public Meetings Act Statement Chairman Jim Smith read the Open Public Meetings Act statement at 7:05 pm.
II. Attendance James Smith, M. Donohue; E. Pain; D. Powell, L. Bauer Excused:, W. J. Oddie, J. Bellis Sr., A. Strobel. Thea Sirocchi-Hurley Richard Karp, Bev Hashimoto, Josh Osowski were in attendance.
III. Review of Minutes Review of the Minutes of the Meeting of January 5, 2017. Motion to approve; M. Donohue D. Powell; second. Motion carried.
IV. Calendar Sunday, January 29, 2017 Bridget’s Day, Ladies Ramble Quilt Exhibit Wednesday, February 15, 2017 School of Interpretation, 7:30 pm Thursday, February 16, 2017 Lecture Program, 7:30 pm Louis Picone on Presidents and Places Sunday, February 19, 2017 A Country Ball celebrating the 285th Anniversary of Washington’s Birthday Wednesday, March 15, 2017 School of Interpretation, 7:30 pm Thursday, March 16, 2017 Lecture Program, 7:30 pm Sunday, March 18, 2017 Under the Shad Moon Saturday, April 1, 2017 Spring Clean Up Saturday, April 8, 2017 Battleground Tour with Todd Braisted, 1012:30 pm Wednesday, April 19, 2017 School of Interpretation, 7:30 pm Thursday, April 20, 2017 Lecture Program, 7:30 pm

Chairman’s Report
Good evening everyone,

As the second month of the new year begins, I think it is important for us to remain focused on completing the short term goals at Historic New Bridge Landing. Again, we must continue to engage the communities of River Edge, Teaneck, and New Milford, and those communities should have an idea of the events that are occurring at New Bridge. Very easily, the Society, has events planned out through mid July of 2017 and are located at www.bergencountyhistory.org. By having these events readily available on local Community websites or electronic signage, it is a very easy way to engage the local communities of all that is occurring. In fact, once the event page is linked, it does not have to be updated constantly.

I want to recognize Eric and the DEP for their quick response to last week’s Noreaster. By 10 am, on Wednesday 25th, most of the water had receded but enough caution was paid to the core of the historic site. Still, with an event like this it further highlights the need to address the drainage issue and the resolution of the drainage easement that goes between the Christie House and around the Steuben House, effectively creating artificial wet areas, when mid 20th century imagery shows the area as dry meadows. I also want to thank Mary D. for working with PSEG to address the lighting fixtures that were out in the parking lot and Hackensack Ave, as well as starting to address the double pole situation at New Bridge. We should also point out that the retreat sign was moved for higher visibility, and we will have to address future “retreat” signs for River Edge along Main St, this helps to tie in the New Bridge story and Bergen County. Historic New Bridge Landing and the Steuben House bore silent witness to the most trying times of the Revolution and the Steuben House is the last witness to this event in Bergen County. I also want to applaud Deborah P. and her Museum Committee for putting on another first rate exhibition this past weekend, examining 19th century Bergen County quilts. The event was extremely well received, saw the site buzzing with activity and was a great cap to January, with the Eagle festival also drawing very large crowds to New Bridge.

Lastly, with the idea of Historic New Bridge Landing 250 becoming a reality, in the coming meetings, we will be further discussing future plans, so again, bring those ideas together and include them in your reports. We will also address a revised emergency procedure plan during the course of the year and begin to look at other near and short term projects that need to be addressed.

Thank you. James Smith, Chairman Historic New Bridge L State Park State Park Commission V.

A. Teaneck – Larry Bauer, Commissioner Teaneck Representative L. Bauer was at a council meeting in behalf of Teaneck Rotary Club and talking about DPW site and possible construction of apartments. Larry expressed he thought it was a bad idea that we should be preserving the waterfront and keep a nice view. He would like to make a presentation to the council. L. Bauer said he said they are looking for ratables but the residential development has many tax burdens. He passed along a report on HNBL. Jim asked when next meeting is. Larry said it probably not be brought up at a council meeting and would try and find out more. Jim acknowledged the DPW site is in the view shed of the HNBL site and the bright orange trucks and white storage building
are unattractive. He wondered if Green Acres money is available to purchase the property. Larry thought he had sent his report by email. Jim acknowledged the Eagle Festival where we had many people enjoying the view and river.

B. New Milford -- Thea Sirocchi-Hurley, Commissioner New Milford Representative Absent, no report.

C. River Edge -- Mary Donohue, Commissioner River Edge Representative Report submitted, see last page in this document.

Chairman Smith mentioned that the sign should go where a tripping hazard sign remnant is - near the intersection. D. Powell advised where the sign was there is now a cone capping metal pole and that pole should be removed as the cone is more visual pollution.

C. County of Bergen Adam Strobel, Bergen County Division of Open Space. Not present. Information relayed in other part of this report.

D. DEP – Steuben House Eric Pain, DEP Representative, Superintendent Ringwood State Park. Report submitted:

Masonry Project: Project complete. Contractor will touch up area near electrical fixture in the spring.

Storm Preparation and Response: During times of coastal storms and predicted high water events Ringwood State Park Superintendent will coordinate with New Jersey State Park Service Staff from the Regional and Trenton Offices. Tidal charts will always be used as a reference when determining an action or response however in the event of an uncertainty the highest level of caution will always be exercised.

Communication: Whenever a need arises that requires the attention of the Ringwood State Park Superintendent or staff that is considered outside of normal business hours the Ringwood Superintendent requests that this communication takes place via text message or phone call. Contact information for the Ringwood State Park Superintendent has been distributed at this meeting.

Electric Meter Relocation: Ongoing. Ringwood Maintenance Staff met with Nu-Star Electrical to discuss the details of the project. Contact was made with PSE&G and they have shared that a site visit will be coordinated within 4-6 weeks.

Floor Refinishing: Ongoing. Ringwood State Park Staff solicited bids from three contractors. 2 have responded. Quotes are available for review. An application for project authorization has been prepared for review by the Historic Preservation Office. Once the project is approved by HPO it will be carefully coordinated around the schedule of events. Timeline for the project is 5-7 days.
Attic Light Fixture- Temporary fixtures will be purchased until permanent fixtures are selected. Examples of temporary units are available for review and once an adequate unit is identified several will be purchased for temporary use.

Alarm Codes-Individual alarm codes have been re-issued to those that require them. Alarm codes for those that indicated they did not want them have been deleted. Documentation of the deletion of the alarm codes is being distributed and will be kept on file.

Alarm System Operation and Capabilities- Discussions from the previous meeting indicated that general questions and concerns exist about the operation and capabilities of the alarm system. Information is available for general discussion. He shared phone lists, emergency plans per last month’s discussion. Josh asked E. Pain to share the Trenton Dispatch, police phone number 877-927-6337 – 24 hr hotline. D. Powell asked for a copy and offered a drawing plan of the Steuben House.

Projects List

1) Refinish, stain and seal flooring on main floor 2) Electric Meter Relocation 3) Attic Light Fixture (Temporary lighting will be purchased until permanent fixtures are selected)

D. Powell mentioned there actually was 2 inches of water in the back rooms and asked if there is a water detector, that maybe it is not functioning. E. Pain said he would investigate. D. Powell suggested for the electrical meter to consider the room above the current meter location that the room has a notched out area or closet to the left of the window (when in the room looking south) so the meter would not be in the way of hanging art work or a tripping hazard and not very visible. She offered
to draw a plan showing location. She asked if FEMA monies were available for the floor repair and electrical work. E. Pain said he would go back and look at his records on Sandy and FEMA. D. Powell thanked E. Pain for taking the trouble to look for OTT lamps for the attic. D. Powell asked if she could be added to the call list. M. Donohue said she would bring up to her contact at PSEG about location of the meter too. E. Pain asked if anyone went to Bergen County Parks meeting. He went to the Mahwah one on February 12. He thought they were taking a comprehensive look at parks. J. Smith noted he gave John Heffernan the sealed envelop with his code. He said wants to consider security issues and cameras for the site. J. Smith suggested we vote on the floor refinishing. D. Powell asked if the contract called for using a sander that would contain all the sawdust. E. Pain said he would speak to the contractor. He offered staff to help move collections. Two quotes J. Smith asked for a motion to approve, M. Donahue, Montes General Contractor for $3,900 for repair of random oak flooring, by using existing flooring, oil based polyurethane. Carol Burnack Construction for $15,170, discussion, E. Pain had a very favorable experience with Montes previously. D. Powell asked if there was a color specified. She suggested walnut color. J. Smith suggested a test on the extra pieces on in storage. J. Smith, reading from the contract, made the motion “HNBLPC authorizes Montes General Contractor for repair, sanding of existing random oak flooring, and applying oil based polyurethane and walnut stain and recommends using vacuum sanding with for $3,900.” M. Donohue first, D. Powell second. Motion passed.
E. Blauvelt-Demarest Foundation No report

F. Bergen County Historical Society – Deborah Powell, Commissioner BCHS Representative D. Powell reminded everyone to send their report by email. She noted the storm came at a time when the Museum Collection Committee was mounting an exhibit of quilts for Brigit’s Day. She reviewing the Federal website predictions of water levels and they came in what was predicted. The Ringwood Park Service did a very good job moving everything upstairs and then back downstairs. Brigit’s Day had 4 children’s activities, historian Todd Braisted dipped candle in the outkitchen and we had tours in all 3 buildings. The quilts were very well received and brought out crowds though not as large as the Eaglefest at New Bridge which had a crowd of about 300 and six eagles. J. Smith spoke on the History of BCHS at New Bridge to a packed house, D.Powell spoke on the History of the Meadowlands which Kevin Wright had created based on a report he wrote for the Meadowland Commission back in the 80s. Chief Perry of the Ramapough is doing a memorial offering for Kevin for the Shad Moon event, Gary McGowan and archaeologist Alyssa Loorya are also scheduled to speak. As you may well know Kevin created the event and it has been amazing how everyone is helping. Kevin was so central to everything at the site.

D.Powell added that she posted the annual legal HNBLSPC meeting notice in the newspaper The Record and on site kiosk, BCHS paid for the ad. J. Smith noted Deborah sent out a Bergen County Parks meeting notice to BCHS email list per A.Strobel’s request. A. Strobel advised by email that Treasury is putting final contract out with Zurcaro Contractor to remove existing barriers and install the new bollards. J. Smith is looking forward to further improvements for traffic flow on the bridge with the removal of obstructions on the east side.

VI. New Business J. Smith we’ve been trying to soften modern intrusions. He said he would speak to Adam if the County could remove Bridge Closed sign. L.Bauer brought up a new website oriented toward seniors R. Karp said he would speak to Deborah after the meeting about a memorial tree and plaque for Kevin Wright in Brett Park.

VII. Public Comment C. Restivo asked how low the temperature gets to set off the alarm sensor. She noted it was 51 in the upper back rooms of the Steuben House in a recent cold spell. E. Pain said the sensor was in the front hall, not upstairs. C. Restivo noted the floors also need to be repaired before sanding and finishing.

VIII. Adjournment
Motion to adjourn: M. Donohue, first, L. Baurer; second. Motion carried.

IX. Next Meeting
The next regular meeting of the Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission will be held at 7 PM at Historic New Bridge Landing, 1201-1209 Main Street, River Edge, New Jersey, 07661 on March 2, 2017, meet in the Steuben House. Future meeting are scheduled April 6, 2017.
Meeting of the Historic New Bridge Landing State Park Commission March 2, 2017

I. Open Public Meetings Act Statement Chairman Jim Smith read the Open Public Meetings Act statement at 7:10 pm. II. Attendance James Smith; E. Pain; D. Powell, Thea Sirocchi-Hurley, Adam Strobel Excused:; W. J. Oddie, James Bellis Sr., Mary Donohue Richard Karp, Carol Restivo, Josh Osowski, John Heffernan were in attendance. III. Review of Minutes Review of the Minutes of the Meeting of February 2, 2017. Motion to approve; Eric Pain, D. Powell; second. Motion carried. IV. Calendar Wednesday, March 15, 2017 School of Interpretation, 7:30 pm Thursday, March 16, 2017 Lecture Program, 7:30 pm, Raymond Frey, Petticoats at the Polls - woman's suffrage in NJ. Saturday March 18, 2017 Grounds Clean-up. 8-11 am Sunday, March 18, 2017 Under the Shad Moon, 1- 5:00 pm Speakers Chief Perry, Gary McGowan, conservator and Alyssa Loorya, archaeologist Saturday, April 1, 2017 Spring Clean Up Saturday, April 8, 2017 Battleground Tour w/ Todd Braisted, 10-12:30 pm Wednesday, April 19, 2017 School of Interpretation, 7:30 pm Thursday, April 20, 2017 Lecture Program, 7:30 pm TBD Sunday, May 7, 2017 Authors’ Day at HNBL, 1-5 pm Wednesday, May 17, 2017 School of Interpretation, 7:30 pm Saturday, May 27, 2017 BCHS Memorial Event for Kevin Wright, at the suggestion of Linda Russell & Co., music & food, begin 3 pm. Saturday June 3, 2017 Brett Park Clean-up. 8-11 am Chairman’s Report Good evening everyone, As March has arrived and February is in the books, I must recall a story I overheard at the most recent event at New Bridge, George Washington’s Birthday Celebration. The parking lot was filled all day, so was Main St., as people enjoyed the fabulous weather and children ran around the grounds. I happened to be walking behind a group of people and one woman remarked to another “they don’t have places like this in Ohio.” Later, the Society received a note from someone who visited from Princeton for the day to check out the birthday celebration and was so impressed with the site that they became members of the growing B.C.H.S. People were actively engaged with the different buildings, strolling over the bridge and even walking around Brett Park, now clearly visible thanks to clean ups. To me, these two tidbits sum up what Historic New Bridge Landing is and where it will go. People want to have an experience when they visit a historic site, an experience that cannot be easily replicated at other locations. Historic New Bridge Landing Park has the diverse and multi-layered story. With the building of 2 the new museum building by the Bergen County Historical Society, the site will then have proper bathrooms to host guests and play a key role in guest services/experiences for a multitude of events. Again, when this is presented to the Commission, the Museum Building will be a benefit to all entities that are involved and make up the Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission. Ultimately, it is this Commission that is responsible for coordinating policies under the commission’s jurisdiction. Again, having a fully funded Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission, is a benefit to all entities that are here at New Bridge Landing. We continue to make great progress at New Bridge and want to ensure that we continue to do this through a spirit of camaraderie and a common vision. In the near term, we have some exciting projects that are moving forward like the bollards at the bridge, refinishing of the floors of the Steuben House and the Bergen County Historical Society creating new interpretative panels for the site. We do this not for personal glory, but for the mutual benefit of the Community and entities involved and to highlight the role Bergen County played in our Country’s history, not just during the Revolution but through the modern era. Thank you. James Smith, Chairman Historic New Bridge L State Park State Park Commission V. A. Teaneck – Larry Bauer, Commissioner Teaneck Representative. Absent. B. New Milford -- Thea Sirocchi-
Hurley, Commissioner New Milford Representative Verizon want to place small network nodes on top of exiting poles, not more than 10% higher than exiting poles. Grants: Ms. Casey informed the council that there is new funding for DOT application round beginning July 1. Recently submitted application of the last phase has expired with new authorization there are 8 areas of funding: intersection improvements, drainage, pedestrian and roadway safety routes to sidewalk installation, bikeways and bridge replacement and /or rehabilitation. There was previously 8 million dollars and now have 22 million. New Milford introduced a Stigma Free Zone. C. River Edge -- Mary Donohue, Commissioner River Edge Representative. Absent. Chairman Smith mentioned Mary was under the weather but moving on.. C. County of Bergen Adam Strobel, Bergen County Division of Open Space. The new removal 36” powder-black bollards came in and are ready for installation. Discussion previously whether key links should be installed and was decided not needed. D. Powell noted the spacing between the bollards should be able to allow a snow blower and wheel chairs to be able to pass through. She added the recent lack of snow removal was a negative to Park and Pedestrian Experience and that it is one of the only pedestrian crossings for miles. Adam lamented that during storms the parks department was busy with road snow removal and sidewalks often comes later. He didn't think they could fit it in their schedule. Chairman Smith thought the bollards may make a difference, previously snow was piled up against the metal barrier. He went on to say that boards were milled to correct size and are ready for the bridge repair 3 where the wood plank decking was damaged. Chairman Smith asked about if Christos had anything to report about the drainage problem. Adam said he reminded them we are a year into trying to fix this problem and the delay is ridiculous. He said he knows they are busy and they may need permits from the DEP and funded. He said it was very disappointed in the delay. Chairman Smith brought up the DEP Trontis said in the last meeting that a permit would not be required from the DEP for that drain so that might be something to go over. He said clearing out the fragmites would alevate drainage to keep the water from going onto the BCHS property. Powell mentioned she introduced herself to the County Parks Director Roth at the recent BC Park Survey meeting and mentioned the problem and that he looked surprised. Powell advised it was documented that it is the County’s responsibility and that Adam had the paperwork. Smith said that with the building boom with the returning veterans from WW11 and Korea the old bridge became obsolete. He relayed that BCHS sold the land to the County for the 1956 four-lane highway north of the site for a dollar thereby protecting the Steuben House, the old bridge, the wharf. The Society actually still owns a piece of property north of the 1956 bridge. They recognized the drainage issues at the time and created the drainage through to the Steuben Arms Apartments. Its man-made wetlands. D. DEP – Steuben House Eric Pain, DEP Representative, Superintendent Ringwood State Park. Report submitted: 3/2/17 DEP REPORT - Steuben House: Masonry Project: Project complete. Contractor will touch up area near electrical fixture in the spring. Electric Meter Relocation: Ongoing. Ringwood State Park Staff met with Nu-Star Electrical as and representatives from PSE&G on Friday, February 17th. PSE&G reported that the meter cannot be moved into the building. Alternative options are being investigated and will be documented and submitted by Nu-Star Electric. Alternatives are expected to be ready for review at the April 2017 Meeting. Pain said they advised it should go on one of the poles in front of the house. Floor Refinishing: Ongoing. Ringwood State Park submitted a request for a change to the original estimates and has received the revised quotations. I am pleased to report that the Historic Preservation Office has responded and determined that the project as submitted will NOT constitute an encroachment on this historic property and that we may proceed with the project as submitted and approved.
Timeline for the project is 5-7 days. Said he needed to find a funding source, low bid approved is approximately $3,900. Attic Light Fixture- Temporary fixtures have been identified and will be purchased once located. Several attempts to locate have not been successful. A follow-up discussion took place concerning the use of Home Depot style lighting fixtures and materials. My electrical contractor reported that he would install fixtures if we provide them however once installed would not provide a warranty of the work if we opt to use Boiler and Glycol Pump- A report that the glycol pump was making noise and emitting an odor was received and followed up on. As per the hvac/plumbing contractor an inspection of the system did not identify any deficiencies. A video of the operation has been emailed to the contractor for further review.

Waterbug As discussed at the February meeting our alarm company was called in to check on the responsiveness of the unit. On Wednesday, February 22nd SMS Security conducted a test of the device and it responded to the presence of moisture. Notification of the test was received via email and was also reflected on the alarm.com website. 4 SMS Security Contact Information was updated to include Deborah’s number on the list. In the event of an alarm activation if the other callers were not to answer Deborah would be notified. Alarm events that are picked up by a previous responder will be communicated as early as possible. D. Powell thanked E. Pain.

Painting Interior and exterior paint work has been identified as a need and will be considered a priority moving forward. Paint specifications are available for the exterior areas of the building however interior paint specifications are not as clear. Previous discussion identified that the Milnar report of 1977 contained interior paint specifications. As paint colors are identified they will be purchased and we will collectively work on having areas painted. Information shared with me by Chairman Smith will be shared with SHPO for feedback Projects List 1) Refinish, stain and seal flooring on main floor 2) Electric Meter Relocation 3) Attic Light Fixture (Temporary lighting will be purchased until permanent fixtures are selected) 4) Painting Exterior/Interior to be completed on a priority basis. E. Blauvelt-Demarest Foundation No report F. Bergen County Historical Society – Deborah Powell, Commissioner BCHS Representative. Note that state workers only moved chairs, not collections during last month’s storm prediction. The museum committee has been busy changing exhibits, primarily focused in the Steuben House. Suggest members look in the south room. When working on the quilt exhibit I came across the second copy in BCHS collection of a Steuben drill manual. Kevin had been looking for this, missing since one of the moves. This original is very rare, 1794. The 1794 publication is that is what the modern reproductions are based on. For the quilt exhibit we bought 2 display stands and we photographed all the ones we exhibited with a future color publication in mind. Every event takes many of our volunteer trained staff to open the site. For Washington's Birthday we had 36 volunteers to open the site, this doesn't count before and after the event jobs like setting up exhibits and cleaning. They do everything from giving tours, opening the shuttered houses, admissions, greeting people, children's activities, putting up signs & flags and picking up litter, which is a constant battle. Additionally we had two musician performers to accompany the dance performers. The children activities included the Third NJ showing how to drill with wooden muskets and talking about military life in the American Revolution and a paper doll project. We have record numbers of families joining BCHS, 100% of the donations goes to our mission. We had another inspection of the Campbell-Christie House by the Bergen County fire department chief on Feb 22 where the over-the-door light units were changed out. They upped from January's visit the number of fire extinguishers to two (2) in the out kitchen. And put 5 large red stickers on the front and back interior side of doors indicating "fire exit". He determined the three (3) light fixtures in the attic space need to be hard wired so a third visit is
planned as well as replacing the bathroom counter top that was damaged with water during a malfunction of the new furnace located in the space above. D. Powell said looking forward to making contact with an archaeologist for the Shad Moon event, to share collections and archaeological material. Chairman Smith related making contact with Cynthia Forester on scheduling the work and that we would be soon up-to-date on requirements. D. Powell noted that we have a color ad in the new 2017 Meadowlands Chamber Tourism Guidebook. (she passed around a copy) The guidebooks are distributed to different area hotels. The Chamber is the only tourism group for the area. Chairman Smith noted the parking lot was full for Washington’s Birthday. J. Heffernan observed the low-tech road banners are very effective in reaching people. D. Powell said we are in a growth period, not only the organization is growing significantly but, despite what is reported in the news recently that museums are worried about dropping attendance, that is not our experience at New Bridge – people love connecting to the site. E. Pain observed it’s been done very well for years and it's paying off. D. Powell observed there’s a lot of enthusiasm with a volunteer staff. J. Smith noted we often talk about Steuben’s role at the house but we will soon have a new commissioned painting featuring the site’s history as a battleground. He described events of the War of Outposts, from Hackensack to Paramus to New Bridge. T. Sirocchi-Hurley said she wanted to come hear Chairman Smith speak and J. Heffernan noted Chairman Smith was Teacher of the Year, awarded by the New Jersey DAR. The Park Commission members joined in congratulating him. VI. New Business T. Sirocchi-Hurley asked if we accept donations, she has a dress from the 1890’s. D. Powell said we accept donations of artifacts, we basically collect artifacts made or used in Bergen County. She noted the Museum Committee has been meeting every Monday night inventorying collections getting only as far as the Campbell-Christie House, that’s how extensive the collections are. Chairman Smith described a recent article on a new museum for Harriet Tubman in Maryland with sustainable features including collecting rainwater. J. Osowski said he drove by it last summer. VII. Public Comment None. VIII. Adjournment Motion to adjourn: A. Strobel, first, D. Powell; second. Motion carried. IX. Next Meeting The next regular meeting of the Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission will be held at 7 PM at Historic New Bridge Landing, 1201-1209 Main Street, River Edge, New Jersey, 07661 on March 2, 2017, meet in the Steuben House. Future meeting are scheduled April 6, 2017. Since rescheduled for Monday, April 3, 2017
Chairman’s Report

Good evening everyone, First, I want to thank everyone for being accommodating and switching the meeting time around. I want to first start off by recognizing the County of Bergen and it’s representative to the Commission Adam Strobel, for his part in seeing the bollard portion and bridge repair through. It is an absolutely stunning change to see the approach from New Milford and Teaneck to be so pedestrian friendly and safe. Ironically, the day it after the bollards were installed, two individuals were walking through HNBL, walked over the bridge talking, and continued do so smoothly without skipping a beat. Thank you. This represented the next phase concerning the core of the site, with new signage, being designed by the BCHS as a final capstone to the core of the park. No longer is the area a negative drawback or an eyesore to New Milford and Teaneck, instead it is a destination that is visually appealing and encourages exploration and pride.

March marked a busy month again, for the Bergen County Historical Society at New Bridge; a late winter storm did not deter events. Unfortunately, a snowplow near the turn around did rip up part of the brick walkway near the Steuben House, however. Also, due to weather, our April 1st clean-up was postponed and will take place at some point in the next month. All three houses, plus the out-kitchen we fully staffed. The Westervelt-Thomas Barn will reopen in the spring.

Moving forward when we look at Historic New Bridge Landing 250 and the important things we would like to accomplish, first and foremost, the opening of the museum building will change the visitor experience. But we also need to revisit and reimagine how one approaches Historic New Bridge Landing Park, where does one park? What is the best way to enter? Where will the Revolutionary War Memorial go? What is the best way to incorporate Brett Park and the former canoe club property (pocket park) into the overall visitor experience? What is the best way to restore the Steuben House to tell the stories of Baron Von Steuben, the Zabriskies and even slaves that once lived there? We will also need to discuss, in new business, a set of rules when visitors arrive. No we are not looking to rewrite or create a Byzantine structure, but we should also be clear that for example, metal detecting, feeding wildlife or being on park grounds after dusk is not permitted. Ultimately, it is the goal of this Commission to plan and coordinate Historic New Bridge Landing Park, for the park’s betterment and future. John Oddie approached me that he is continuing to have health and personal issues and we will be discussing this further.

Thank you. James Smith, Chairman Historic New Bridge L State Park State Park Commission V.
A. Teaneck – Larry Bauer, Commissioner Teaneck Representative. Absent.

New Milford -- Thea Sirocchi-Hurley, Commissioner New Milford Representative T. Sirocchi-Hurley noted the bollards on the New Milford side of the bridge look fabulous. She mentioned
the New Milford Historic Commission is planning a new plaque for the French Burying Ground includes directional street signs pointing to the cemetery.

C. River Edge -- Mary Donohue, Commissioner River Edge Representative. Green team notice for the clean up appeared four times in their bulletin board, unfortunately the event was canceled due to rain. Please advise if rescheduled. No news from Mayor Mignone and PSE&G. Remote, on speaker phone.

Chairman Smith mentioned Mary was under the weather but moving on.

B. County of Bergen Adam Strobel, Bergen County Division of Open Space.

Storm water Outfall Pipes – On April 3, 2017, I met with County Engineer Joe Femia and hydraulics engineer Christos Kavvadas to discuss the status of the project. They are continuing to determine the appropriate environmental permits necessary from the NJDEP for working in this project area; as it is a floodway. Then the drafting the appropriate permits and submittal to NJDEP. Bollards at Swing Bridge - The bollards were installed on the New Milford side of the bridge. Also, planks were replaced on the bridge. A. Strobel said he brought up again the length of time this has been delayed. Permitting may take some time. Chairman Smith asked now that the gate is up that closes the road if the “Bridge Closed” sign could be removed so there would be less visual pollution. Eric indicated he would contact traffic safety. Chairman Smith suggested that if a safety issue that the sign could be moved to further away along Main Street. D. Powell suggested it could be swapped out for one of the three “Dead End” signs along Main Street. Chairman Smith thanked E. Strobel.

C. DEP – Steuben House Eric Pain, DEP Representative, Superintendent Ringwood State Park. Report submitted:

DEP REPORT - Steuben House:
4 /3/17
DEP REPORT - Steuben House:

Masonry Project: Contractor will return to complete the touch up once temperatures return to a suitable range. Likely to be completed during the month of May

    Electric Meter Relocation: Ongoing. On 2/17/17 PSE&G reported that the meter cannot be moved into the building. PSE&G provided contact information for the telephone company and the telephone company has reported back that the meter cannot be moved to either of the existing poles. This will likely triple the cost of the project as a new service would need to be run. Estimated at $10,000-$25,000. Estimates are being finalized based on the information provided by PSE&G and Verizon however would an appropriate planting be considered as an alternative to moving the meter.
Floor Refinishing: Ongoing. Funding source has yet to be identified. Once funding is available the timeline for the project is 5-7 days and the project will be coordinated around the schedule of events.

Attic Light Fixture- Ringwood State Park Maintenance staff took measurements and priced out installing a new track lighting system in the attic. Costs of materials and installation with home improvement warehouse fixtures and hardware will be under $1000. Funding source to be identified and work to be completed.

Painting Interior and exterior paint work has been identified as a need and will be considered a priority moving forward. Paint specifications are available for the exterior areas of the building however interior paint specifications are not as clear. HPO provided a list of architectural conservators that could be called in for a paint study if we are unable to determine. More discussion required. HPO is willing to review color scale identified in the Milner report. Projects List

1) Refinish, stain and seal flooring on main floor 2) Electric Meter Relocation 3) Attic Light Fixture (Temporary lighting will be purchased until permanent fixtures are selected) 4) Painting Exterior/Interior to be completed on a priority basis.

Discussion:

A. Strobel questioned if the floor could repaired for free by a flooring company. D. Powell asked if we are missing having funding for doing the floors? E. Pain clarified he said he doesn't have money for the flooring repair or the lights in the attic in current budget. He said he would come back in the May meeting and have an answer. D. Powell expressed opinion that we defer project, Chairman Smith agreed. E. Pain said worse case scenario $3,900 could get deferred to July 1 with the new budget. D. Powell asked what it the yearly amount applied for, for the Steuben House. E. Pain said he doesn't have a specific amount he sets aside, the budget for Ringwood is stretched so thin that he just pays for landscaping, snow plowing, boiler repair, utilities and any other maintantence. Around $40,000 although he pointed out one year he spent $20,000 on snowplowing alone. ¼ to 1/3 of his budget is at the Steuben House. D. Powell added then we are looking at doing capital improvements and work. How do we go about approaching a capital budget? E. Pain said we would identify some capital projects and he would fit into a capital project list. D. Powell asked what would be time frame to do that. He said he would come up with his list and then it goes to the regional office and from there to Trenton and then they reprioritize. It could happen now or 20 years from now depending on urgency and where it fits within. D. Powell said we should look at items like the parking lot, pedestrian walkways and handicap access. E. Pain agreed it had not been resurfaced and it looked like a tractor-trailer had come in on a hot day and buckled the surface badly. D. Powell agreed it needed to be smoothed and that the area by the flag pole needs to be regarded and addressed. A. Strobel said that it makes sense to wait until that delayed work on the flap gets done. He asked how bad flooding was the past weekend. Chairman Smith said you can see backs up between the Demarest House and the Campbell-Christie House and it rises up from the turn around flag pole.
The DEP D. Powell showed images for 1954 and 1967 aerials and you can see it is not marshy before the bridge and then you get to after the bridge and we’ve started a wetlands onto the Society’s property. The apartments are new; warehouses are being built along Coles Brook. Chairman Smith. E. Pain mentioned there was an application 4 or 5 years ago to raise the Steuben House. He was directed to fill out an application. A. Strobel said it was only 4 or 5 inches and didn't seem worth the effort. D.Powell said she never heard it introduced to the Park Commission. Chairman Smith said m a department. A. Strobel said that he said that it’s a wetland and issue is closed but maybe we could get an expert in. He thought the drainage issues could be addressed but having someone come. Someone came in with a plan of a berm and it was dismissed by Chairman M. Trepichio. A.Strobel thought it would difficult to reengineer site. Chairman Smith said it would be an engineering project for the state. D.Powell said she forgot about the berm plan that would have created a bowl of water at the site. E.Pain indicated the attic lights could be done with material from Home Depot. Comment made as long as it isn’t a fire hazard. Chairman Smith brought up issue of metal detecting at Historic New Bridge Landing. D. Powell asked what the fine is. E. Pain thought it was more that a slap on the wrist, $75 fine. D.Powell relayed a recent incident of people metal detecting on Soldier Hill Road at the site of the Steenrapie Encampment in the town park at the copper beech trees. She also looked up River Edge code on it and it a $1,000 fine with possible jail time on borough property. E.Pain noted an officer could be severe if the situation warranted it.

D. Blauvelt-Demarest Foundation No report

E. Bergen County Historical Society – Deborah Powell, Commissioner BCHS Representative.

Shad Moon event was difficult beginning with the weather predication of snow and being unable to reach one of the speakers to reschedule and incompatible version of Powerpoint of another speaker. I can say we considered it to be successful in that the student president of the NJCAR (a high school sophomore) was able to make a presentation of the $5,000 donation during the event. It was the first donation of $5,000 that the organization had ever made and we were very proud to accept it. She had started out with a goal of $1,000 and worked to get to $5,000. Other two items, can say we will reach 1,000 paid memberships at the next one or two events. Also that Linda Russell and Friends wanted to have a memorial concert for Kevin we planned it for May 27, Saturday Memorial Day weekend at the Campbell-Christie House. It’s a BCHS members, friends and family event. BCHS is paying for food and we are making by reservation (no cost) so you can email Deborah Powell at info@bergencountyhistory.org if you would like to join us. Mary D. asked to be put on the list immediately. She asked to be excused from the remote presence since T. Sirocchi-Hurley is present, making the quorum. D.Powell continued that the same weekend (Monday) we are having a wreath laying at Gen. Enoch Poor’s grave in Hackensack.

VI. New Business D.Powell asked if there was any problem with the County representatives and officials receiving email of the HNBLPC. She explained she wondered if it is getting blocked. A.Strobel thought it would bounce back but D.Powell said some companies are using services that block email. She asked if anyone had an opinion on who should be receiving the minutes. She said she was sending to the Freeholders. She asked if A. Strobel could send the County
Executive’s and Freeholder clerk or the County Park Representative email addresses which he said he would do. T. Sirocchi-Hurley asked if D.Powell was sending to New Milford Historic Commission, D.Powell said she was sending to the PC representatives to pass along. She asked if anyone else within the state should be receiving it. E.Pain said John Trontis was good about forwarding within the state. Two, worked on the emergency plan keeping a copy at the site as well. E.Pain said FM Global for Fire insures for Flood for the Steuben House. D.Powell said she thought the state was self-insurance, E.Pain said that’s what everyone thought. No one filed for Nor’easter or Sandy. D.Powell noted BCHS insures on multiple levels at some expense. D.Powell asked if the insurance company should be approached to pay for items at the Steuben House that we talked about. E.Pain thought it was too late to do so. Chairman Smith said he was contacted by Senator Weinberg’s office and offered the Commission funding to the Park Commission in the next go around. It is very interesting previously offered as a grant, this time comes out of the budget the way some certain historic sites receive funds. He mentioned possible uses redesign of entry and parking lot redesign, an archaeological study of the Steuben House, with 2001 on the porch, 1967, 1974-1977. There were different views on what to do at earlier times like the Milner report, such as putting restrooms in the Steuben House. There are no stipulations to the use of the funds. He said he wanted to bring up the offer to the commission members. A. Strobel asked to be mindful of contracts and how much, Smith said $100,000 and could be every year when it is in the state budget. Chairman said it is a start. Possible use for maintaining trails in Brett Park or creating a pocket park. Chairman Smith acknowledged possible uses of the General Store if it could be acquired and restored. Lydor Technologies could be used to look for foundations and what was here like the mill and out buildings. D.Powell showed the 1828 Coastal Survey overlaid on a modern aerial. E.Pain said a group is looking for information for doing surveys now. Chairman Smith said in England they are using the technology to track trees. And that charcoal pits are being discovered in CT with the technology.

E.Pain said that he could contact the company doing surveys very soon; he thought they should be able to help him at New Bridge. D.Powell gave him the GPS coordinates. D.Powell mentioned that Mike Trepicchio had started a website for the PC some time ago but with no funding last fall had stopped paying for it; newbridgelanding.org had been scarfed up by a person with unknown objectives, had stolen info from BCHS website to look legitimate and had mixed up information with outdated events and the history of Pianos. She said there is legal recourse because he is “stealing” our identity. There are links pointing to that address like on the County and State’s website. E. Pain said he would ask for it to be removed. D.Powell asked if the Commission would feel comfortable her contacting the individual to find out what he was up to. Smith said he they advertised they had they had tours for a group and he felt it was bad optics. VII. Public Comment None.
VIII. Adjournment
Motion to adjourn: A. Strobel, first, T. Sirocchi-Hurley; second. Motion carried.
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IX. Next Meeting
The next regular meeting of the Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission will be held at 7 PM at Historic New Bridge Landing, 1201-1209 Main Street, River Edge, New Jersey, 07661 on May 4, 2017, meet in the Steuben House. Future meeting are scheduled June 1, 2017.
Meeting of the Historic New Bridge Landing State Park Commission
Thursday, June 1, 2017

I. Open Public Meetings Act Statement
Chairman Jim Smith read the Open Public Meetings Act statement at 7:03 pm.

II. Attendance
James Smith, E.Pain, D.Powell, Adam Strobel. Mary Donohue
Unexcused:  Larry Bauer
Richard Karp and Carol Restivo were in attendance.

III. Review of Minutes
Review of the Minutes of the Meeting of May 4, 2017. Motion to approve; M. Donohue,
A. Strobel; second. Motion carried.
J. Heffernan was left off as attending the last meeting. Donohue made a suggestion
for rewriting text on the park commission, see report. A. Strobel had two corrections.
Christos Kaveadas, last name spelling. Two, on page 4, the reference to Great Falls
National Historic Park counting their attendance, whether attendance should be
counted, that his point was on how to count vehicles to the site, that it is important to
count but that Main Street has dual purposes and people making wrong turns.

IV. Calendar
Saturday June 3, 2017 Brett Park Clean up. 8-11 am
Sunday July 2, 2017 Lantern Tour. 7 pm
Saturday July 8, 2017 Vintage Baseball, Flemington Neshanock vs. the
NY Mutuals. 11-2 pm

Chairman’s Report
Good evening everyone,
Good evening everyone and welcome to tonight’s June meeting. I am going to keep my report
brief this month. Today, I just wanted to comment on the growing potential of Historic New
Bridge Landing and the continued success of the programming put on by the Bergen County
Historical Society. With each high quality event, people continue to visit and are the driving
force behind Historic New Bridge Landing. The local entities involved with this Commission
also play an important role. Advertising and supporting events and raising awareness of Historic
New Bridge Landing is a critical not only for the site, but surrounding Communities, shops,
restaurants and other historic offerings. Again, with the completion of the museum building, the
final component for the site will be completed. Once this is complete, further advancements can
occur.

Thank you.
James Smith, Chairman  
Historic New Bridge State Park State Park Commission  

V. Commissioner Reports

A. Teaneck – Larry Bauer, Commissioner Teaneck Representative. Absent. Chairman Smith noted he had not heard anything on John Oddie’s replacement. He would like to see a to-do-list developed for Teaneck. That Brett Park needs to be regularly maintain. BCHS had worked on clearing the view through the park and it is getting overgrown again. He and J. Heffernan noticed debris in the road, which also falls as New Milford’s responsibility.

B. New Milford -- Thea Sirocchi-Hurley, Commissioner New Milford Representative. Absent. Chairman Smith noted the mulch and debris in the road and the unattractive presentation.

C. River Edge -- Mary Donohue, Commissioner River Edge Representative. Donohue See attached report. Discussion on the Naturalization Program date. Settled on August 8, 2017. Chairman Smith asked if the electronic board on Kinderkamack Road could advertise our events like the upcoming Vintage Baseball game. D. Powell advised she had spoken to the mayor regarding and he said he could help with that.

B. County of Bergen Adam Strobel, Bergen County Division of Open Space. A. Strobel said he does not have an update on the drainage issue from Christos Kavaelas. He had a conversation with Cynthia Forster regarding the replacement of the Campbell-Christie House bathroom vanity (damaged in an upstairs air conditioning leak) they were looking for clarification on specs. Chairman Smith noted only that he needed to accommodate wheelchair access. D. Powell asked C. Restivo who noted she was at the house during earlier repair work to the water damaged walls, they noted to the carpenter that sink could be reused if needed but that the vanity was sagging and pulling away from the wall. D. Powell noted what is there could be used as a template, select a neutral color. D.Powell asked for his report to be email to her. Chairman Smith advised that there was a discussion on the bollards on the Steuben House side and he said just the one bollard should be replaced. J. Heffernan noted a tree entwined in the bridge fender and wondered if it could damage the bridge and pass information along in case could damage the bridge.

C. DEP – Steuben House Eric Pain, DEP Representative, Superintendent Ringwood State Park. Report submitted a report:

6/1/17

DEP REPORT - Steuben House:
E. Pain said he talked to SHPO regarding a discussion in the last meeting on humidity of the house and problem of deterioration of the bricks in the back rooms. D. Powell brought up that the house is closed up more than it use to be. E. Pain brought us painting the Steuben House porch and he brought a paint sample (dark green). He brought up bringing up voting on it but the conversation did not circle back. D. Powell asked about the Lidor aerial photo study. E. Pain confirmed the software takes a special computer to handle all the data. She brought up the road counter. E. Pain said it worked very well for them up for a recent event. D. Powell asked if he was suggesting they would lend it or buy it for HNBL. E. Pain thought he could buy it after July 1st, to help determine attendance at the park for his reports and that it was standard tool for parks to use. A. Strobel said he would be guided by what E. Pain suggested. D. Powell said the NPS at Great Falls was not differentiating if cars were visiting or stopping to make a phone call or a U-turn. E. Pain said he was going to start doing at some of their events at Ringwood. D. Powell pointed out how it can only help parks, we can show how we are providing service and experience. J. Heffernan pointed out the cars parking in the lot would not be counted if it was placed by the Steuben House and D. Powell noted the pedestrians should be counted to get an accurate picture. Chairman Smith said useful to get a count in the off-season too.

E. Pain noted a visitor before the meeting was excited to see the Martha Washington asparagus in the garden, loves the Rev War history, he visits often as he works nearby in one of the financial buildings. Chairman Smith thanked E. Pain for contact with LaSalle the landscape contractor, and instructions to leave gardens alone, and now some of the iris came back. He brought up if the Steuben House sump pump could be diverted so it doesn’t empty at the foundation of the house. He asked if the risers or threads on the back steps could be replaced and they could be painted as viewed in old photos. J. Heffernan noted bees were swarming on the side of the house and may need to have mortar examined and Chairman Smith noted mud wasps were active.

D. Blauvelt-Demarest Foundation
No report

E. Bergen County Historical Society – Deborah Powell, Commissioner BCHS Representative. Busy month with Pinkster, Tina Ishura Stonefield demonstrated oil painting and came back to the memorial event with a portrait of Kevin Wright almost completed. The memorial event for Kevin was very nice, we had 120 people, some people weren’t able to make it but extra people did so it actually came out to what I had made arrangements for the food. Linda Russell came with 8 people in her band, usually we only see her with 2 or 3 people but for this she had all eight she plays with, they sounded really great. Her style of performing is she tells a story that leads into a song so it makes it very warm experience, very lively. Chief Perry came with 3 other people. M. Donohue confirmed it was very beautiful, very warm feelings. D. Powell noted they were getting ready for the July Lantern tour and Vintage Baseball. We have many projects to work on the back end prep. We are still locating the museum building. We had to get borings done to locate the building. Chairman Smith added it was a geo-technical engineer. He added we had 30 individuals at a rainy Memorial Day wreath laying ceremony where a historical essay on the Steuben House in the . D. Powell noted we have
some of the best programming when you compare to other sites and how we are leaders in the community and we take that very seriously. E.Pain said he doesn’t get to the Hermitage often, Long Pond, Skylands is limited to one day a month, he noted the following HNBL has is impressive. He said Ringwood they have added food trucks and flea market, enchanted evening ghost and the July 4th event. D.Powell pointed out they had police service to monitor people who want to experience ghosts after hours. He said his schedule doesn’t allow him to get out. D.Powell pointed out we have a monthly School of Interpretation for training of the volunteer staff. E. Pain said it was impressive what we were able to accomplish with a limited budget and it does get the attention of the assistant director and it is something to be proud of. He said you don’t seem to try the latest fad like food trucks, you don’t have to. D.Powell noted we try different angles to reach different interests but keep driving it all back to the site’s story and the collections. Chairman Smith said to E. Pain we’ll save a spot for you for Baronfest.

VI. New Business
M. Donohue added the River Edge Historical Commission has added a scout project to research the names of local streets and how they got them. M.Donohue noted HNBL was not included in a recent article on historic sites in Bergen County. Chairman Smith observed the article was actually about the County of Bergen’s award ceremony. M. Donohue asked about grants after seeing another article in the paper, A.Strobel directed her to the County’s website, but the deadline is June 30. D.Powell noted how applying for grants can be a waste of time, we were turned down by the NJ Historical Commission and NJ Cultural Trust after the 2007 Nor’easter. Chairman Smith said one of the things we’ve been discussing for awhile are reviewing and updating the Retreat signs through out the County. He asked what could we do to add one or two in River Edge. The shopping center is named after HNBL and yet there is no connection to this area. A.Strobel said he would ask if the County could fabricate the signs and if there was a sign plan. Chairman Smith said it was originally a project of BCHS. He said there is a scout who was identifying where the signs are located. D.Powell asked if there was any objection to sending the Park Commission minutes through the BCHS email blast software, it would make it simpler once a recipient list is set up. There was no objection.

VII. Adjournment
Motion to adjourn: M. Donohue, first, A.Strobel; second. Motion carried.

VIII. Next Meeting
The next regular meeting of the Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission will be held at 7 PM at Historic New Bridge Landing, 1201-1209 Main Street, River
Meeting of the Historic New Bridge Landing State Park Commission Thursday, July 6, 2017

I. Open Public Meetings Act Statement Chairman Jim Smith read the Open Public Meetings Act statement at 7:21 pm. II. Chairman Tom Smith gave Chief Tom Cariddi a brief history of the site as we waited for commissioners. III. Attendance James Smith, Eric Pain, Deborah Powell, Thea Sirocchi-Hurley, Mary Donohue Excused: James Bellis Sr., Adam Strobel Richard Karp, River Edge Police Chief Tom Cariddi and Carol Restivo were in attendance. IV. Review of Minutes Review of the Minutes of the Meeting of June 2017. John Heffernan noted by email that he had been in attendance at the previous June meeting. Motion to approve; M. Donohue, Thea Sirocchi-Hurley; second. Motion carried. V. Calendar Saturday June 3, 2017 Brett Park Clean-up. 8-11 am Sunday July 2, 2017 Lantern Tour. 7 pm Saturday July 8, 2017 Vintage Baseball, Flemington Neshanock vs. the NY Mutuals. 11-1 pm Chairman’s Report Good evening everyone, With summer now in full swing, we continue our efforts of moving forward. First, let me recognize and thank Eric P. from the DEP – Parks and Forestry for his contact and coordination concerning some major projects at the Steuben House. The work was outstanding and the changes amazing, but I’ll let Eric tell you more about it. I also want to thank Eric for coordinating with the Bergen County Historical Society during the recent Government shutdown. This past Sunday, a very well attended twilight lantern tour took place here at New Bridge but we were careful to avoid areas that were closed. Again, this close coordination and discussion is exactly what this very Commission was set up to do. The Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission was established in 1995 by New Jersey State law N.J.S.A. 13:15B-1-5 to tie together the stakeholders, (Bergen County Historical Society, Blauvelt Demarest Foundation, Borough of River Edge, Borough of New Milford, Teaneck Township, County of Bergen, and the NJDEP), to act in good faith, for the purpose of coordinating and implementing all federal, State, county, municipal, and private development policies and other activities relating to the historic preservation and recreational use of the property under the commission’s jurisdiction. In other New Bridge news, volunteers have spent many hours preparing for the Vintage Baseball game this year in the Meadow, the 5th anniversary! If you have never been, I would encourage you to stop by the games this weekend to see New Bridge buzzing with activity. I can report that proper Wetlands permits were filed with the DEP for the Museum Building Project and Geotechnical Engineering was done and a report generated. With report in hand, the next step will be designing a proper foundation based on soil conditions keeping the report in mind. Once that is complete, a formal presentation will be made to the Commission. To conclude, I received word today that funding for the HNLPC was in the works as previously reported. Barring no further objections, I do believe we should move forward with this funding and first, tackle the 2 archeology of the Steuben House property to begin to tell the story that lies underneath. Recently, archeologists found blood and dna from a canister shot at Monmouth battlefield. This highlights the need for archeology and how there is still so much for us to learn. Think of the possibilities here at New Bridge. The next project for the site would be a re-design of the parking lot and Main Entrance to the park. I view all of these projects on improving the site as a whole, and benefitting the site, as a whole not just one entity or another. Thank you. James Smith, Chairman Historic New Bridge State Park State Park Commission VI. Chairman Smith asked
Chief Cariddi to speak first so as not to detain him and was thankful to be able to draw experts in their fields. Chief Cariddi acknowledged that Commissioner Donohue asked to him to come and find out about possible security issues. He said his office very much values River Edge’s history back to its colonial roots. Chairman Smith said the big concern we’re having now is that the site is very much a family-oriented site. The site is closed at night and activity night and adult activities. Commissioner Powell noted it’s not the Pokemon visitors. Chief Cariddi asked that the park rules be posted conspicuously upon entering. He said if they are in place then his officers can take action without us having to sign a complaint. He noted there are office buildings that were having a problem in town. Commissioner Powell noted long list of park rules are posted in Brett Park but they had not gone through the Park Commission. Chief Cariddi asked for an aerial with the property lines noted and he supplied his email address. E. Pain said they have full administrative code that is posted at the park office and the way park service manages it is referenced at other sites and then it is the visitors responsibility to know the rules. The basic rules could be posted. 8 am to 8 pm. D.Powell noted we have dawn to dusk. E. Pain said they refrain using No Trespassing, Chief Cariddi elaborated that outside of open hours can be considered trespassing to those not authorized. M. Donohue volunteered to work with Chief Cariddi on the wording. Carol Restivo asked opinion on motion sensors on lights. He advised lights are the most effective deterrent. He said they very happy to have the organization active at the site in town. He asked if we had any concerns to please contact him. Commissioner Smith thanked him.

A. Teaneck – Larry Bauer, Commissioner Teaneck Representative. Absent. Richard Karp announced a River Birch was planted lower Brett Park with a plaque in honor of Kevin and there will be a ceremony in the fall. Commoner Smith thanked him. R. Karp noted it faces the Steuben House. New Milford -- Thea Sirocchi-Hurley, Commissioner New Milford Representative T. Sirocchi-Hurley said the New Milford Historical Commission is looking into who owns the French Burying ground. She noted the DPW maintains it and the Commission is concerned for future care and into shared services. Chairman Smith noted preservation of cemeteries in Bergen County is a challenge. BCHS has given tours of the cemetery and has opened it to family members visiting from out of state. T.Sirocchi-Hurley said NMHC open it once a year.. Sirocchi-Hurley suggested the town HNBLSPC representatives meet with the mayors at the Steuben House. C. River Edge -- Mary Donohue, Commissioner River Edge. RE Police Chief Cariddi attended the meeting at the Park Commission’s invitation. She called DPW and thanked for the dumpsters, and obtained messaging on the River Edge digital board. She said she was going to contact NJ Transit about getting New Bridge Landing information at the train 3 station. The Naturalization program is scheduled for September 8, 2017. She asked for suggestions for a speaker. Chairman Smith noted that BCHS provides regular programming and opens the site. M.Donohue asked if a photo of the painted meter could be sent to her. B. County of Bergen Adam Strobel, Bergen County Division of Open Space. Absent. C. DEP – Steuben House Eric Pain, DEP Representative, Superintendent Ringwood State Park. Report submitted a report: 7/6/17 DEP REPORT - Steuben House: Electric Meter Relocation: Meter has been painted to match the exterior of the Steuben House. Floor Refinishing: Ongoing PO has been requested for the finishing of the floor at the Steuben House. Landscaping General weekly needs will be met by LaSalle Landscaping while Green Meadows will perform the large-scale services at the Meadow, Sutton and Lys and former saw
shop properties. Tree Survey Date discussed. Painting The recently digitized copy of the Milner report has been submitted to SHPO for review and their feedback is eagerly anticipated. Ethics Compliance: As per the Commissioner’s Office Ethics Liaison Officer all New Jersey Commissioners are required to acknowledge receipt of the uniform code of ethics and plain language guide. Complete ethics trainings and ethics briefings and complete an outside activity questionnaire. Hard copy available. Electronic copies to be distributed. Pain had not been asked to deliver this previously. D. Powell asked how are we protected, for example do we have legal counsel. Pain thought we were protected and that he would bring copies. Projects List 1) Refinish, stain and seal flooring on main floor PO requested to be completed fall 2017 2) Attic Light Fixtures Assigned 3) Painting Exterior/Interior Waiting on feedback from SHPO 4) Repaint the front porch Completed. Discussion how shut down affected the park. D.Powell pointed out that someone has attempted to open the shutter on west face of the Steuben House and asked if it could be looked at fixing the latch. D.Powell asked if there was any update on the sewer ejection pump for the Steuben House. Pain said it needs to be looked at, that fresh water may be entering the unit. D. Blauvelt-Demarest Foundation The foundation made arrangements for the BCHS property to be mowed in time for the Vintage Baseball Game and it is very much appreciated. 4 E. Bergen County Historical Society – Deborah Powell, Commissioner BCHS Representative. D. Powell shared some mock ups of interpretive signs for the site, replacing the brown signs. These would be in color. They would be angled like the NPS signs, handicap assessable. She noted they have been working on these for several years. She mentioned she thought it was interesting Chairman Smith picked the 1780 date for the new painting as it gives us a chance to illustrate how New Bridge was used throughout the war, it wasn’t just one day event. The image is incorporated into the sign as well as the Newman painting which shows the Nov 1776 retreat at New Bridge Landing. She recently purchased the original painting. Another sign will illustrate the Zabriskie Tide mill, as Kevin noted was recommended by the NPS should be facing what you are seeing. Includes HABS drawings of the Lefferts Tide Mill of Long Island. Kevin thought this mill was very similar to the Zabriskie Mill. She said she was working on a report on what we know about our tide mill to gain input from the Tide Mill Institute, they were very interested in the site when contacted recently. The signs are not linear experience but more of a process of discovery. The interpretive signs will be noted in the site brochure. E. Pain commented very nice, T. Sirocchi-Hurley thought they were great. D. Powell mentioned two foundation grants BCHS were applying for on the collections. She mentioned author Jane Austen died 200 years ago July 18, 2017, and what a following she has. The collection committee tied in remembering her by displaying an 1812 calico dress from the collection for the Calico Frolic July 15 event. Chairman Smith noted how many people are down at the site often and the new interpretive signs will really add to the experience. D.Powell noted what a great turnout we had for the Lantern Tour in spite of the confusion on shut down scheduling. VII. New Business None. VIII. Public Comment Carol Restivo – Good job. IX. Adjournment Motion to adjourn: M. Donohue, first, T. Sirocchi-Hurley; second. Motion carried. Chairman Smith – Have a fantastic weekend everyone. X. Next Meeting The next regular meeting of the Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission will be held at 7 PM at Historic New Bridge Landing, 1201-1209 Main Street, River Edge, New Jersey, 07661 on July 6, 2017, meet in the Campbell-Christie House. A future meeting is scheduled for August 3, 2017.
I. Open Public Meetings Act Statement  Chairman Jim Smith read the Open Public Meetings Act statement at 7:11 pm.

II. Attendance  James Smith, Deborah Powell, Thea Sirocchi-Hurley, Mary Donohue, Larry Bauer Excused: Eric Pain, Unexcused: Adam Strobel Bob Roth was in attendance.

III. Review of Minutes  Review of the Minutes of the Meeting of July 2017. Motion to approve; M. Donohue, Thea Sirocchi-Hurley; second. Motion carried. T. Sirocchi-Hurley corrected the minutes saying the suggestion was for the different town historic commissions to meet, not the mayors. L. Baurer said he has not been getting minutes. M. Donohue asked if the original commission members could be list in the report. M. Donohue acknowledged she received Park Commission minutes that were emailed, A. Strobel should have received them at the same time.

IV. Calendar  Wednesday, Sept 20, 2017 School of Interpretation. 7:30 pm Saturday, Sept 23, 2017 Grounds Clean up, 8-11 am Thursday, Sept 28, 2017 BCHS lecture program, 7:30 pm. Note date change. Saturday, Sept 30, 2017 Baronfest, A birthday celebration of Major-General Baron von Steuben’s at his Jersey Estate, 1-5 pm

V. Chairman’s Report Good evening everyone, With August in full swing Historic New Bridge Landing continues to buzz with activity. Special thanks to NJDEP for having the grass cut in time for our big game. Over 400 residents of Bergen County and beyond visited New Bridge to take in the sites and sounds of the game in a beautiful historic setting. Volunteers continued to open up the site for the Calico Frolic, which saw the display of an early 19th century dress, along with the first in a serious of Summer time tours, the next one is August 12th. The Society’s B and G’s committee replaced broken rails on the Society’s property, and the State did so on theirs. While broken rails or an empty water bottle might not seem like a big deal, it all goes back to first impressions. It is my hope that at the next meeting we will have bids/proposals for an archaeology and restoration plan for the Zabriskie-Steuben House, site of over 11 military engagements during the war and the only home that still stands that the good Baron owned. I do have some homework for our Teaneck, New Milford and River Edge delegates. I want you to go back to your municipalities and find out the process of hanging banners on light poles in the New Bridge vicinity. Many towns do this, and I believe it could possibly be a benefit to Historic New Bridge Landing to continue to brand and define the area. Thank you for being a volunteer on this Commission and as always, I encourage you to stop by for an event to see New Bridge in Action.

Thank you. James Smith, Chairman Historic New Bridge State Park State Park Commission

Discussion on light pole banners, would towns being able

VI.
A. Teaneck – Larry Bauer, Commissioner Teaneck Representative. No report emailed. L. Baurer noted trying to work with the Teaneck Chamber and bike groups. He mentioned they are trying to establish a historical society. Chairman Smith asked if Teaneck parks department could clear lower Brett Park at least once a year so that volunteer could get in there to maintain it. In years’ past it was more open and has become more overgrown since 2002. R. Karp noted they had done a big cleanup 5 years ago. D. Powell noted a large tree had fallen across from the Steuben House in Brett Park and it is all overgrown making it impossible to weed-whack. She also mentioned that someone recently had updated Google maps with a path along the waterfront but that it is actually impossible walk there. T. Sirocchi- Hurley suggested landscapers could be approached to do the work at no cost if they were allowed to put up a small sign.

B. New Milford -- Thea Sirocchi-Hurley, Commissioner New Milford Representative T. Sirocchi-Hurley said the New Milford Historical Commission is looking protect the French Burying ground. She mentioned an original house is available in the Peetzburg,

C. River Edge -- Mary Donohue, Commissioner River Edge. M. Donohue reported she is finalizing plans for the Naturalization Ceremony on Friday, Sept 8, 10:30 am, Mayor Mignon, River Edge is the guest speaker. She is requesting help from BCHS including George and Martha Washington. M. Donohue is completing the program booklet. She noted she had sold 6 of her children’s’ book and presented a check for the museum fund. Shirley Salzman Bergen County League of Voter Registration will be registering the new citizens for voting. D. Hollenbeck feels the PSEG property will be resolved soon. The River Edge Historic Commission is giving a program on the Hamilton-Burr Duel. She asked permission to appealing to local churches for help on scheduled ground clean up. Chairman Smith asked if she knew of anything going on the development across Hackensack Ave. He suggested the façade could be designed in a sensitive way to Historic New Bridge Landing because it is right in our front yard. M. Donohue said Mary Carriddi is on the River Edge Beautification Committee and was offering help. Chairman Smith asked if she could provide her contact.

C. County of Bergen Adam Strobel, Bergen County Division of Open Space. Absent.


Shutters to be painted in August or early September. D.Powell said they did not resolve rescheduling tree survey.

E. Blauvelt-Demarest Foundation The foundation made arrangements for the BCHS property to be mowed in time for the Vintage Baseball Game and it is very much appreciated.

F. Bergen County Historical Society – Deborah Powell, Commissioner BCHS Representative.
BCHS continues to be a beehive of activity with working on collections, events and event planning, fundraising, building and grounds. Our herb and kitchen gardens prosper with spices, hops, corn and cardoons among others. We're hosting a Hackensack Chamber meeting on August 10. John Heffernan is helping facilitate this. We purchased and installed 20 rails to replace broken or weak rails on our property. For the Sunday Summertime Tours open date we had a nice turnout with 20 historians and interpreters opening the site for this low-key event. It is very rewarding talking to the public. We have another date planned for August 12 which is a Saturday. This is in addition to the Vintage Baseball game and the Calico Frolic in July. The calico "Jane Austen" 1812 dress attracted much attention. Volunteers Joe Restivo, Sean and Manfred Wegner were able to get the broom making machine going so that is something we can add to the experience at New Bridge. We're in discussions with members on moving the 2 halves of the New Bridge mill stones to the barn for safety sake and replace their current use as a seat and step with slate. We would add the millstones to the site interpretation. Besides the event calendar and brochure, we added to the handout material a new postcard advertising the BCHS library and archives collection available at BCC in Hackensack and a card on the Steuben House. We were disappointed that Spingo (online interface for northjersey.com) failed to include the Vintage Baseball Game in any of their papers. We had paid in advance for a $50 ad and it only appeared in online events on northjersey.com. With the prediction of the Northeaster E. Pain’s office did move the reproduction Hackensack Valley chairs upstairs. Chairman Smith noted that a River Edge Eagle Scout has a project of restoring six of the Bergen County Historical Society’s blue marker. BCHS solidified the Camp Merritt monument. He mentioned pursuing restoring the State Marker which tells identifies multiple New Bridge Revolutionary War engagements. The November retreat event includes reading the American Crisis and continuing the programming focused on events leading up to the Revolution, this year is on the Townshend Acts. We are having a speaker on 18th century paint analysis and restoration. There was a tax on lead, glass and paint.

VII. New Business Chairman Smith showed plans for locating the new museum building supplied by G3. The outhouse, shed and garden will need to be moved. Two ADA parking spaces will be added as well as walk to the front of the building. There will be an open amphitheater area created. It is at 11 feet elevation with a foot print 35x65 ft and work toward LEED certified. He said there would be a barn raising. L. Baurer observed it would be good for River Edge to get points by being LEED certified. T. Sirocchi-Hurley said that it benefits the town when it goes to apply for a grant. M. Donohue thought the mayor and planning board would be very favorable. Built with mortise and tendon, it can accommodate an addition for future use. Chairman Smith said there are different architectural elements that can be added to the interior. Hardie board is one of the siding materials being considered. It will have a catering kitchen. He acknowledged we have possibility of being able to accommodate weddings. VIII. D.Powell asked for the Park Commission reports be sent to her by email.

IX. Public Comment John Heffernan noted the McDonalds had a conveyor belt. D.Powell noted they have never made a donation to BCHS since 1981 despite all the litter their patrons generate at New Bridge.
X. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn. L. Baurer, first, D.Powell; second. Motion carried. Chairman Smith – Have a fantastic weekend everyone.

XI. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission will be held at 7 PM at Historic New Bridge Landing, 1201-1209 Main Street, River Edge, New Jersey, 07661 on August 3, 2017, meet in the Campbell-Christie House. A future meeting is scheduled for September 7, 2017.

Meeting of the Historic New Bridge Landing State Park Commission Thursday, September 7, 2017

I. Open Public Meetings Act Statement Chairman Jim Smith read the Open Public Meetings Act statement at 7:06 pm. Chairman Smith thanked D. Powell for sending the minutes out. Correction: John Heffernan had been left off as attending the August meeting. II. Attendance James Smith, Deborah Powell, Thea Sirocchi-Hurley, Mary Donohue, Larry Bauer, Eric Pain. Excused: Adam Strobel John Heffernan and Richard Karp were in attendance. III. Review of Minutes Review of the Minutes of the Meeting of August 2017. Correction: John Heffernan had been left off as attending the August meeting. M. Donohue corrected spelling to Shirley Solsman name, page 2. D. Powell asked for reports to be typed up on computers and emailed to avoid problems. Additionally, she asked for them early because of the Baronfest event on Sept 30. Motion to approve; L. Bauer, Second; M. Donohue. IV. Calendar Friday, Sept 8, 2017 Naturalization Program Wednesday, Sept 20, 2017 School of Interpretation. 7:30 pm Saturday, Sept 23, 2017 Grounds Clean up, 8-11 am Thursday, Sept 28, 2017 BCHS lecture program, 7:30 pm. Note date change. Saturday, Sept 30, 2017 Baronfest, A birthday celebration of Major-General Baron von Steuben’s at his Jersey Estate, 1-5 pm. Fundraiser for the museum building. V. Chairman’s Report Good evening everyone, I would like to make sure the fall projects moving forward. He has been in communication with Sen Weinberg’s office in order to make sure HNBLSPC receives the funding for HNBL. The Eagle Scout marker project has had incredible response on Facebook. It is a county wide project. The blue marker program began in 1959, and BCHS has been involved in memorializing sites like contributing to the statue of Enoch Poor in Hackensack, Camp Merritt monument, the Bergen County Court House marker, as well as over 200 markers throughout the County. The most recent one is being dedicated in Norwood October 8, 2017. There is a state marker in the barn from when the post was damaged by a car some 40 years ago that Deborah reminded me of. Chairman Smith reached out to the firm we’ve used for our markers and they have restored an identical marker. He reiterated what Kevin had said, that the marker notes the multiple events in the American Revolution at New Bridge, not just the Retreat. The location is yet to be determined but he would like to move away from the house to keep modern intrusions visually out of site like was accomplished with the electrical meter that Mary and Eric worked on. It was painted a color to blend into the stonework. So we are remembering old projects and tackling new ones. Thank you. 2 James Smith, Chairman Historic New Bridge State Park State Park Commission Discussion on light
pole banners, would towns being able VI. A. Teaneck – Larry Bauer, Commissioner Teaneck Representative. No report emailed. Chairman Smith asked if the Teaneck DPW could perform maintenance on Brett Park. B. New Milford -- Thea Sirocchi-Hurley, Commissioner New Milford Representative. No report emailed. T. Sirocchi-Hurley said the town of New Milford application for a Transportation Phase 5 grant for street improvements to the New Bridge gateway was denied. The reason given was they received 133 applications. She was disappointed that the first 4 phases were completed only to have this one rejected. The banner project on New Milford PSEG poles required PSEG permission. The banners did not last very long. Chairman Smith observed useful to know that the poles numbers need to be known. He reported that the New Milford cobble stone / curb covered with weeds by bridge on New Bridge Rd. C. River Edge -- Mary Donohue, Commissioner River Edge. M. Donohue said the town said only allow banners at Kinderkamack Rd and Main St. D. Powell asked if they understood that the inquiry was regarding banners on telephone poles. M. Donohue said she would check. M. Donohue advised Michelle Carridi would like to do beautification at New Bridge, M. Donohue is going to get the contact to Chairman Smith. The 10th annual Naturalization program is tomorrow. The Record has been contacted. M. Donohue thanked John Heffernan and committee for helping and getting the site ready, what Kevin use to do BCHS is taking care of refreshments. One resident of River Edge is being made a citizen. The ceremony begins at 10:30 am. C. County of Bergen Adam Strobel, Bergen County Division of Open Space. Absent. D. DEP – Steuben House Eric Pain, DEP Representative. Superintendent Ringwood State Park. Submitted a report email: Floor Refinishing: Ongoing PO has been requested for the finishing of the floor at the Steuben House. Once funding is available the timeline for the project is 5-7 days and the project will be coordinated around the schedule of events. E.Pain said he is determined that the project will get done. Repair floor with floor material in attic if needed, sand, one coat walnut stain, 3 coat polyurethane matt sealer. Considered whether stairs are included. Attic Light Fixture- Materials Ordered scheduled to be completed the week of September 11th. Landscaping General weekly needs will be met by LaSalle Landscaping while Green Meadows will perform the large-scale services at the Meadow, Sutton and Lys and former saw shop properties. Tree Survey TBD. D. Powell asked if he could if his staff could pick a few dates. He said the ash trees should be identified and treated. 3 Painting: The recently digitized copy of the Milner report has been submitted to SHPO for review and their feedback is eagerly anticipated. Ethics Compliance: No action needed at this time Discussion: Greenwood Lake Commission has received funds and also has been determined no requirement to comply. D. Powell, asked if we could consider expanding parking lot to the adjacent lot owned by state. There is a mulberry tree there. J. Heffernan for suggest the lot needs to be repaved and to do at the same time. D. Powell suggested E. Pain would know best how to budget for this if possible. - She brought up restoring the glass in the miller’s room, do we kick it down the road, the restoration of the glass with the window frame when restoring the house in future. Curious what SHPO would determine, do you use old glass period and etch it with the date so known in future it is not original to the house. - Getting and installing the car counting device for the site - Said everyone is probably thinking about flooding due to the recent hurricanes but asked if anyone heard of a concept of a huge inter-tube around a building to keep it dry, works in conjunction with a pump. She said she didn’t know if it was a fake story but she shared a photo of it. Chairman Smith named a similar product. M. Donohue asked if any emergency plans have been made. D. Powell said she has a complete binder of emergency plans as part our FEMA claim. Chairman Smith thanked E. Pain and asked if back door could be painted because you can see the wood with the paint missing. Chairman Smith
said he would coordinate sign restoration, it needs to be palletized and crated. It only cost $800 for pick up, delivery and restoration. A new post is $300. E. Pain said he take the info and run with it. Projects List Refinish, stain and seal flooring on main floor PO requested to be completed fall 2017 Attic Light Fixtures To be completed week of 9/11/17 Painting Exterior/Interior Waiting on feedback from SHPO E. Blauvelt-Demarest Foundation The foundation made arrangements for the BCHS property to be mowed and it is very much appreciated. F. Bergen County Historical Society – Deborah Powell, Commissioner BCHS Representative. Besides the town banner going up at the corner of Kinderkamack and Main Street, the town is making the town parking lot near NJ Transit available. We have an auxiliary officer from the town. BCHS has a new postcard of the Steuben statue for the event. She said we get feedback from people saying they don’t know where HNBL is and in the past, that was due to the junkyard and the junkyard fence blocking the site out of view. Now even though we have an entrance sign at the road and have regular event road banners up it’s still a challenge to reach people. “I was thinking about it on vacation seeing one of those retail map handouts at Asbury Park. So I thought we could do it for our area.” D. Powell unfolded a 17x22 map to share. “I’ve been tucking in area history and images kids might be interested in. The tie-in to restaurants, hotel and retail (retail is having a big challenge now with the internet) with 70 ads. Each sponsor would get a 100 maps for $100. The low price point is an entry point.” She 4 asked if Rich Karp could pen in the Greenway Path. Any comments? R. Karp asked if it would be on internet. D. Powell described how she created it. D. Powell said it’s an effort to get to get people to think our area as a destination, we have a huge opportunity so close to NYC, the largest tourist destination in the country, only 7 miles to the George Washington Bridge. L. Bauer said the Teaneck Chamber would take an ad but concerned if a Bergen County printer would be used. D. Powell said she got a quote from a Bergen County printer, that she regularly uses a Bergen County printer. VII. New Business Chairman Smith brought up E. Pain asked if the October 5 meeting be moved to October 4. E. Pain didn’t want to miss any additional meetings. The notice needs to be put in the paper. First: T. Sirocchi-Hurley, Second: L. Bauer. The commissioners agreed and passed it. VIII. D. Powell asked for the Park Commissioners reports be sent to her by email. IX. Public Comment No report on museum building other than hiring a company to do foundation drawings. X. Adjournment Motion to adjourn. L. Bauer, First, D. Powell; Second. Motion carried. Chairman Smith – Have a fantastic weekend everyone. XI. Next Meeting The next regular meeting of the Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission will be held at 7 PM at Historic New Bridge Landing, 1201-1209 Main Street, River Edge, New Jersey, 07661 on Wednesday, October 4, 2017, meet in the Campbell-Christie House. A future meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 3, 2017.

Meeting of the Historic New Bridge Landing State Park Commission Wednesday, October 4, 2017

I. Open Public Meetings Act Statement Chairman Jim Smith read the Open Public Meetings Act statement at 7:02 pm. Chairman Smith thanked D. Powell for sending the minutes out.

II. Attendance James Smith, Deborah Powell, Mary Donohue, Larry Bauer, Eric Pain. Excused: Adam Strobel, Thea Sirocchi-Hurley John Heffernan, Richard Karp and Bob Roth were in attendance.

III. Review of Minutes Review of the Minutes of the Meeting of September 2017. Motion to approve; M. Donohue, Second; L.Bauer.
IV. Calendar
Wednesday, October 18, 2017 School of Interpretation, 7:30 pm
Sunday, October 22, 2017 Harvest Homecoming, 1:30–5 pm
Thursday, October 26, 2017 Lecture Series, 7:30 pm
Sunday, November 5, 2017 Mitzvah Day 10–12 noon
Sunday, November 12, 2017 Veteran Day Wreath laying, off site
Wednesday, November 15, 2017 School of Interpretation, 7:30 pm
Thursday, November 16, 2017 Lecture Series, 7:30 pm
Sat & Sun, November 18 & 19 Invasion & Retreat Weekend
V. Chairman’s Report
Good evening everyone,

I hope all is well. Thank you for taking the time to move your schedules so that we could meet tonight. It is greatly appreciated. Once again, Historic New Bridge Landing was a beehive of activity, from the Naturalization Ceremony, Bergen Leads, School of Interpretation, private tours, site clean ups, and Baronfest. All of these events are run by highly trained volunteers, and have gone fantastically. It is through these events that Historic New Bridge Landing is showcased, all different individuals from different walks of life partake in the multilayered history, highlighting that history is indeed, very much alive and well.

Again, moving forward, we must continue to raise the awareness of events through our own entities because everyone has a stake in this site. Historic New Bridge Landing, was a crossroads during the Revolution and was even an important crossroads up until the 1950’s when the new bridge was put in. It is at the heart of history in Bergen County and its success benefits the history community and communities, as a whole. Historic New Bridge Landing, has and or will have all the amenities to make historic tourism work, which will in turn, be a major benefit to the surrounding communities.

Thank you, James Smith, Chairman Historic New Bridge State Park

Discussion on light pole banners, would towns being able

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VI.
A. Teaneck – Larry Bauer, Commissioner Teaneck Representative. No report.

B. New Milford -- Thea Sirocchi-Hurley, Commissioner New Milford Representative. Absent.

C. River Edge -- Mary Donohue, Commissioner River Edge. 1. The Naturalization Ceremony of September 8th was a beautiful, meaningful and very moving event. I was remembering Kevin during the ceremony. I had contacted a friend reporter and photographer at The Record and Town News who have covered all of our ceremonies and the coverage that we received was impressive, both in The Record and the Town News. Steuben House was very well received and a very interesting overview of the importance of the site. Mayor Mignone was the guest speaker and he related his own family experiences with Naturalization. There were 23 new citizens naturalized, representing 15 different countries. USCIS representatives have accepted our invitation to return in September 2018. Special thanks to John and Linda Heffernan for all the preparation and work they performed to make the ceremony a success.
2. Clean-up Day was advertised at St. Peter's. I checked with Deborah Powell and Jim Smith regarding requesting the RE DPW to place a dumpster at the site, but the dumpster was not required for this occasion.

3. I placed a request of the Mayor and Council for notices regarding the Baron Fest on the bulletin boards at Borough Hall and at the park on Main St. and KKK Road. Request was granted at the Council meeting of Sept. 18.

4. The RE Historical Society is sponsoring an exhibit of the participation of Alexander Hamilton at Revolutionary War events at the Steuben House as aide-de-camp to George Washington. The exhibit was made possible with artifacts loaned by the Paterson Museum and the New York Historical Society. The opening day reception is on October 8 from 2 to 4 pm. All 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students from River Edge and Oradell, St. Peter the Apostle and the Yavneh Academy have been invited to special presentations.

5. I spoke with Mayor Mignone about the PSEG determination of the land at their former sub-station and he said that the talks are productive and a PSEG decision should be coming soon.

6. On River Edge Day at Memorial Park on Saturday Sept. 23, I sold 4 books - The Revolutionary War at NBL - and am giving the proceeds, $80.00 to be added to the Museum Fund.

7. Oct. 2, I went to the RE Borough Hall for the placement of a digital message on the two town boards re the Camp Merritt Lecture and the Harvest Homecoming. I gave it to them prior to the council meeting of Oct. 2, and hopefully, it will be approved for immediate posting.

Respectfully submitted, Mary H. Donohue

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J. Heffernan added Carol Restivo and Beverly Hashimoto also volunteered at the Naturalization event.

D. County of Bergen Adam Strobel, Bergen County Division of Open Space. Absent.

E. DEP – Steuben House Eric Pain, DEP Representative. Superintendent Ringwood State Park. Submitted a report email:

Floor Refinishing: Ongoing PO has been requested for the finishing of the floor at the Steuben House. Once funding is available the timeline for the project is 5-7 days and the project will be coordinated around the schedule of events.

Attic Light Fixture- Materials have been on back order however I was informed that they have arrived. The project is to be scheduled for completion next week.

Landscaping General weekly needs will be met by Lasalle Landscaping while Green Meadows will perform the large-scale services at the Meadow, Sutton and Lys and former saw shop properties.
Snow Plowing Low bid vendor is Green Meadows. Commission to approve award contract.

Tree Survey TBD

Painting  The recently digitized copy of the Milner report has been submitted to SHPO for review and their feedback is eagerly anticipated.

Miscellaneous Projects Shutter repaired Porch light replaced Phone line being investigated

Projects List

Refinish, stain and seal flooring on main floor PO requested to be completed fall 2017 Attic Light Fixtures To be completed week of 10/9/17 Painting Exterior/Interior Waiting on feedback from SHPO M.Donohue asked if the floor finishing project could be moved along.

D. Powell asked if the state contractor would be shoveling a path on the County of Bergen’s bridge, the New Bridge, that it is an important pedestrian – commuter crossing and that Adam had stated previously he didn't think the County would be able to. E.Pain said he could not authorize a state of NJ contractor to shovel County property but they are planning on clearing a path to the bridge. M. Donohue pointed out it is an insurance issue if someone slips and falls. Chairman Smith confirmed it is the County’s responsibility. D. Powell asked that pathway be determined for the State snow removal contractor. We have a problem with the uneven brick walkway.

Motion by Chairman Smith to approve Green Meadow as the State of NJ snow removal contractor for HNBL. M. Donohue, first, D. Powell second, motion passed.

Chairman Smith asked for a prewinter meeting with the contractor, E.Pain said contractor was very willing to meet. He noted that the Meadow looked fantastic for the Baronfest, the artillery was stationed there. D. Powell noted that someone has stolen two shutter-dogs. E.Pain volunteered he could personally buy it. D.Powell noted BCHS could pay. Chairman Smith asked that the shutters be painted before it gets too cold. J. Heffernan noted coordinating event and storm related chair moving.

VII. Blauvelt-Demarest Foundation No report

VIII. Bergen County Historical Society – Deborah Powell, Commissioner BCHS Representative.

D. Powell thanked E.Pain for obtaining and delivering a vehicle counter in time for Baronfest. J.Heffernan noted that 2,103 which needs to be divided by 4. 528 vehicles. Test began Sept 28, 2017, six days ago. D. Powell thanked E.Pain and the Blauvelt Demarest Foundation for mowing the Meadow and BCHS property, respectively for Baronfest. She noted we had two news stations doing broadcasts including nj.com, Channel 12. J.Heffernan added WMBC covered too. The Baronfest event came together great and had a great turnout, especially young families. We had some new people helping with publicity, we even had a digital billboard ad up on Rt 17 for more than two weeks. Two local craft breweries participated. We had broom making, the camp kitchen
in addition to the Outkitchen. The Third New Jersey was stationed by the Demarest House keeping an eye on pumpkin pickers and Mott's Artillery and cannon fire was a big draw. The event chairperson made a site bean bag game, scavenger hunt, interactive-map of the rev war which interested adults and students alike, tours on the bridge besides all three houses and barn. We had an exhibit from the architect of the plan of the new museum building. Attending were some representative area agencies. For the next event we have Harvest Homecoming which is another Family Friendly event with something for the adults too on Oct 22. At 1:30 pm: Historian & Author Don Hagist will talk on 6 veterans of the American Revolution through Photos and History in the Steuben House (Book-signing opportunity!). New BCHS exhibit from the collections: Daguerreotypes & Family Trees include folks from the Zabriskie, Christie, Hopper, Berry, Brinkerhoff, Demarest, Ackerman and Lozier families. Photo enlargements of Bergen County from the 1800s looking back at you, 12x18”. Check out Silhouette and Broom making. Pumpkin picking, games, scavenger hunt, cooking in the Outkitchen. Don't forget the New Bridge Donuts & Cider (hot or cold) in the tavern. D. Powell noted we have two sponsorship opportunities. She asked if L. Bauer and M. Donohue had any feedback sponsors for History-Retail map. L. Bauer asked if the site was handicap accessible. He meant if HNBL was. D. Powell asked R.Karp if any trails on the Greenway were. He noted the Mary Toplosky trail in Teaneck is handicap accessible. D.Powell thought the map would clear $4,000. It is an introduction of HNBL to the community. Chairman Smith observed there is nothing like this for our area and a great thing for New Bridge Center on a kiosk. He said we had a couple from Pennsylvania at the last event that may have looked for a place to go to dinner. M. Donohue would like to see another version of the map with family sponsors.

Chair Smith showed the new painting commissioned by BCHS of the 1780 raid. That Kevin Wright had advised on the details of building.

New Business M.Donohue brought up that that Bergen Pines is being renamed New Bridge Medical Center. D. Powell said it probably doesn't impact us. M. Donohue’s objection is that we weren’t contacted about it. D. Powell noted it is seen as a positive image “New Bridge, new beginning.” D.Powell brought up some ideas about blocking water for a major storm event like Sandy, which is a combination of a storm out at sea - a nor’easter with a lunar or planetary alignment that pushes the water up the Hackensack River to New Bridge. A post to Facebook about the last storm in Texas showed someone who prevented water from flooding house with basically very large intertube by “Aquadam.” Another option is a hard-plastic curved plastic shield that uses the weight of the water and avoids filling and emptying an intertube device and run $4,000 to 8,000. She passed the printouts to E.Pain who expressed an interest not only for New Bridge but other state sites. E.Pain said he would make some calls. He observed the sump pump should continue working during a storm because the electric system has been elevated. D. Powell asked about Commissioner Adam Strobel, if he was ok, he's missed 4 meetings. She noted the meeting date change for the HNBLSPC October meeting was posted in the Record.

IX. Public Comment  No comment.
X. Adjournment
Motion to adjourn. First, E.Pain; Second, M.Donohue, Motion carried. Chairman Smith – Have a fantastic weekend everyone.
XI. Next Meeting
The next regular meeting of the Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission will be held at 7 PM at Historic New Bridge Landing, 1201-1209 Main Street, River Edge, New Jersey, 07661 on Thursday, December 7, 2017, meet in the Campbell-Christie House. A future meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 4, 2018.

Meeting of the Historic New Bridge Landing State Park Commission Wednesday, November 2, 2017

I. Open Public Meetings Act Statement Chairman Jim Smith read the Open Public Meetings Act statement at 7:11 pm. Chairman Smith thanked D. Powell for sending the minutes out. II. Attendance James Smith, Deborah Powell, Larry Bauer, Eric Pain, Thea Sirocchi-Hurley. Excused: Adam Strobel, Mary Donohue John Heffernan, Bev Hashimoto, Carol Restivo were in attendance. III. Review of Minutes Review of the Minutes of the Meeting of October 2017. Motion to approve; L. Bauer, Second; E. Pain. IV. Calendar Sunday, November 5, 2017 Mitzvah Day 10–12 noon Sunday, November 12, 2017 Veteran Day Wreath laying, off site Wednesday, November 15, 2017 School of Interpretation, 7:30 pm Thursday, November 16, 2017 Lecture Series, 7:30 pm Sat & Sun, November 18 & 19 Invasion & Retreat Weekend Sunday, Dec 3 Sinter Klaas Day, Open House, 1-4 pm Saturday, Dec 9 Decorating HNBL, 10 am-4pm Sat & Sun, Dec 16 & 17 34th Annual Anniversary of Colonial Christmas Concerts Sunday, January 7, 2018 Twelfth Night BCHS Member Party, 2-5 pm V. Chairman’s Report Good evening everyone, I hope everyone is doing well as fall quickly passes us by. I say this monthly, but once again, our site was a hive of activity from lectures, private tours, Harvest Homecoming, to demonstrations for volunteers, New Bridge really is the premier historic site in Bergen County and offers the best opportunities to explore history, as a whole, moving forward. A few updates…there appears to be a hold up on the funding from the state budget. It was written in the budget to go through the department of state, then to the DEP. I was told a document would need to be filled out and returned and suggested that I meet with Bill Schaum, with the Department of State on the matter further. He also said we would need to submit “shovel ready projects” then to the DEP for payment and requested a meeting. I invited him to New Bridge but have not heard yet. I have also not send the form back yet. In the past, we have talked about responsibilities or lists and when we see the progress Eric has made with the DEP on projects, I think it is important to keep this going. Therefore, at tonight’s meeting, I believe after each report, we begin a project list for everyone, so that we can continue to move forward and accomplish our shared goals. 2 Thank you, James Smith, Chairman Historic New Bridge State Park State Park Commission VI. A. Teaneck – Larry Bauer, Commissioner Teaneck Representative. No report. Said he would work on metal detecting ordinance. Chairman Smith said we should start a list. 1. Clean-up of the grounds, specifically a tree survey and clearing the large dead tree on the bend. D. Powell suggested it is beyond volunteers, based on the size of the tree. Chairman Smith said as recently as 15 years ago photographs you could see it was clear. L. Bauer suggested a spring
clean-up for Teaneck. B. New Milford -- Thea Sirocchi-Hurley, Commissioner New Milford Representative. She reported the Blauvelt Demarest Foundation was willing to donate the French Burying Ground to the town. (Jan Zabriskie, Jr of the Zabriskie-Steuben House is buried right inside the gate, d. 1793). She thought people were living in the old general store near the bridge. C. River Edge -- Mary Donohue, Commissioner River Edge. D.Powell read her report 1. The Alexander Hamilton Exhibit at the River Edge Cultural Center was successful ... approximately 500 visitors attended both from schools and public. 2. I spoke with Mayor Mignone about the PSEG decision on their former site, and he said again that the talks are continuing and constructive and that he expects a decision in the near future. 3. I am giving Jim Purcell $100 for an additional raffle ticket with promises from two more participants. Respectfully submitted, Mary H. Donohue Project List 1. Chairman Smith asked if the BCHS exhibits could continue to be included on the River Edge digital board. D. County of Bergen Adam Strobel, Bergen County Division of Open Space. Absent. Strobel by way of a phone call to Chairman Smith said he was able to connect an Eagle Scout with the County of Bergen sign department re: Retreat Sign Project. Will raise awareness on the Retreat route through the different towns. Chairman Smith said A.Strobel had no update on the Drain issue. Project List: 1. Sunshine Flooding due to Drain Flap missing, allowing water to come in property. Chairman Smith noted A.Strobel had no update on the Drain issue. Project List: 1. Sunshine Flooding due to Drain Flap missing, allowing water to come in property. Chairman Smith noted A.Strobel had no update on the Drain issue. Project List: 1. Sunshine Flooding due to Drain Flap missing, allowing water to come in property. Chairman Smith noted A.Strobel had no update on the Drain issue. Project List: 1. Sunshine Flooding due to Drain Flap missing, allowing water to come in property. Chairman Smith noted A.Strobel had no update on the Drain issue. Project List: 1. Sunshine Flooding due to Drain Flap missing, allowing water to come in property.

3. Sagging bathroom sink that the County was going to replace. It was damaged from a leak from the new hot water heater directly above the bathroom. 4. Chairman Smith questioned whether the County of Bergen conducts a survey the Campbell-Christie House for exteriors repairs, like missing roof shingles. E. DEP – Steuben House Eric Pain, DEP Representative. Superintendent Ringwood State Park. Submitted a report email: 11/1/17 DEP REPORT - Steuben House: Floor Refinishing: Ongoing PO has been requested for the finishing of the floor at the Steuben House. Once funding is available the timeline for the project is 5-7 days and the project will be coordinated around the schedule of events. E.Pain said the money is there for the project. Attic Light Fixture - Completed 10/12/17 Landscaping General weekly needs will be met by Lasalle Landscaping while Green Meadow will perform the large scale services at the Meadow, Sutton and Lys and former saw shop properties. Snow Plowing Low bid vendor is Green Meadows Contract has been awarded Tree Survey TBD. E.Pain observed would be deferred to spring. He had a handout on the borer affecting Ash Trees and that we had at least one at the park. D.Powell asked if someone was coming to look at the Ash Tree, she asked if arborist could look at the Red Oak in front of the Steuben House also, maybe we resurvey it in the spring. A year ago or more it had a
huge fungus at the base. It is a commemorative tree, the State Tree and in a prominent location. EAB Painting The recently digitized copy of the Milner report has been submitted to SHPO for review and their feedback is eagerly anticipated. E.Pain thought it reasonable to move ahead on interior and exterior painting. He advocated coming up with meeting after the holidays. Chairman Smith agreed matching existing paint colors which were based on earlier tests. He advised that an 18th century paint expert was a speaker for the Countdown to 250 and Retreat Weekend and it would be interesting to see what she would suggest. 4 Flood Control I was not able to get either company to commit to a demonstration of the product on site. D.Powell asked if he considered buying the flood barrier, the intertube by “Aquadam. He said his budget on been cut back to $14,000 to get to July which covers a lot of properties, 44,000 acres, outside of obligated funds. He thought he allocated ¼ to 1/3 of his budget to the HNBL. He thought projects that staff can do could be accomplished. Historic Marker -Funding and Vendor TBD Miscellaneous Projects Shutters and back door in the process of being painted and might be completed before winter. Chairman Smith said the doors were painted the same color as the shutters. Side door and back door are cream color. D.Powell thought they were based on earlier study of paint. Phone line ongoing. Verizon claims it is fixed but as far as I can tell it has not been. Projects List: 1) Refinish, stain and seal flooring on main floor PO requested to be completed fall 2017. The project was approved, but the holdup is the contractor has to fill out paperwork and needs a purchase order. 2) Attic Light Fixtures Completed 10/12/17 3) Painting Exterior/Interior Waiting on feedback from SHPO VII. Blauvelt-Demarest Foundation No report VIII. Bergen County Historical Society – Deborah Powell, Commissioner BCHS Representative. We had another very successful event for visitor experience at Harvest Homecoming, great turnout. We did add scarecrow making. On October 27 & 28 I represented BCHS at the Tide Mill Institute conference in Portland, ME. BCHS gave a tour of site on Saturday Oct 26 to out of state group, involved 8 BCHS volunteer historians and interpreters including Todd Braisted and Carol Restivo. At the same time we had BCHS event group BCHS "School of interpretation" doing a cooking work shop that the out of-staters were able to experience. Still trying to figure out a plan for determining the age of our canoe, I think we’ve come up with a combination of doing radio carbon dating to get a narrow window of a hundred years and then matching tree rings maybe with dendrochronology. It came up on when I was at the Tide Mill Conference where a dendrochronology expert from Brittany, France. It raised awareness for me that we should consider doing tests on the wharf and the post from the mill, that we are losing so much material, wood, due to the storms. When we came the wharf vertical boards were almost complete and now they are almost gone. Other recent meetings included the weekly museum collection meeting, event planning, fund raising, a new marker dedication in Norwood and water meter update. Three BCHS event interpreters are attending an 18th c. clothing workshop in Monmouth this weekend. E. Pain monitoring the storm during this time. IX. New Business Chairman Smith suggested we should open a line of communication with Suez, the water company and the release of water during a storm. E. Pain thought it would be a good idea. T. thought you get on a list and get notified of a release. Discussion of the Army Corp of Engineers for silting issues. Chairman Smith thought the towns should also be aware and communicate concerning the well-being of the Hackensack River. He is concerned about the lack of action 5 years after Sandy Hurricane. L.Bauer suggested the DPW should be given an award. D.Powell brought up whether funding for parks is on the River Edge ballot. Chairman Smith noted some towns fine someone $1,000 for cutting a tree down where there is not the same type of fine for knocking down a house. T. Sirocchi-Hurley said the New Milford DPW came and cleaned road by the bridge. She expressed concern about the 18th century Casey House in town that is for sale and asked for preservation info. IX. Public Comment No comment. X. Adjournment Motion to adjourn. First, T. Sirocchi-Hurley; Second, L.Bauer, Motion carried. Chairman Smith – Have a fantastic weekend everyone. XI. Next Meeting The next regular meeting of the Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission will be held at 7 PM at Historic New Bridge Landing, 1201-1209 Main Street, River Edge, New Jersey, 07661 on Thursday, January 4, 2018, meet in the Campbell-Christie House. A future meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 1, 2018.
Meeting of the Historic New Bridge Landing State Park Commission
Minutes: Thursday, December 7, 2017

I. Open Public Meetings Act Statement
Chairman Jim Smith read the Open Public Meetings Act statement at 7:13 pm. Chairman Smith thanked D. Powell for sending the minutes out.

II. Attendance
James Smith, Deborah Powell, Eric Pain, Mary Donohue, Adam Strobel

Excused: Larry Bauer. No contact from Commissioner Thea Sirocchi-Hurley. Bob Roth was in attendance.

III. Review of Minutes
Review of the Minutes of the Meeting of November 2017. Motion to approve; D.Powell, Second; Mary Donohue. Adam Strobel abstained because of absence at previous meeting.

IV. Calendar
Saturday, Dec 9  Decorating HNBL, 10 am- 4pm
Sat & Sun, Dec 16 & 17  34th Annual Anniversary of Colonial Christmas Concerts
Sunday, January 7, 2018  Twelfth Night BCHS Member Party, 2-5 pm

V. Chairman’s Report
Good evening everyone and welcome to the December meeting of the HNBLPC,

As the year comes to a close, I want to wish everyone and their families, from mine to yours, all the best this holiday season. Once again, another busy year occurred at Historic New Bridge Landing, marked with growing events, talks, and public participation. With the planning of the Bergen County Historical Society, I know this will continue into 2018, with a few additions as well.

Again, every entity plays an important role here at Historic New Bridge Landing and that should ultimately be the focus of the Commission, to provide for and promote this site. We’ve begun outlining Commission member responsibilities and will continue to add or subtract as we move along. We also must continue to think long term, for the long-term stability and vibrancy of the historic structures here at New Bridge among other things. I can report as an update that I have spoken with the Department of State concerning the funding I previously mentioned for the site and they are currently consulting / discussing with the DEP and legal team about the funds. Again, these funds are not going to a salary or to any one entity; instead, they should be used to facilitate an updated site wide study and plan for the care and restoration of the Steuben House and future archaeology work. Funding would also be utilized to redesign the entrance to the park and former Pizza town lot, along with light pole banners to further brand the site and neighborhood, once again, as New Bridge. Any questions? Thank you.

Thank you,
VI.


B. **New Milford -- Thea Sirocchi-Hurley**, Commissioner New Milford Representative. No report submitted, no contact.

C. **River Edge -- Mary Donohue, Commissioner River Edge**. No report submitted. M. Donohue reported contact with the River Edge mayor and a decision will be made in the spring on the PSEG property. Chairman Smith brought up each entity having a list to do. He suggested items on the list for River Edge could be regularly posting the events on the town digital board on Kinderkamack Rd. He asked if River Edge has vacuum capabilities for cleaning drains, and if the drains in our end of town could be put on the list. D. Powell said it might help alleviate flooding. M. Donohue said she would ask.

D. **County of Bergen, Adam Strobel, Bergen County Division of Open Space**. No report submitted.

A. Strobel acknowledged he had been absent for several meetings with personal issues with his parents but they are a little more stable and he was able to attend. He thanked the Commission for understanding his absence. He said he didn't have a lot to report on. He said he trusted the retreat signs are progressing. He said he was at a loss on why the drain issue is not resolved by Joe Femia’s department. D.Powell asked is there any feedback, if we should go before the freeholders and what did he suggest doing. A.Stroble suggested writing a letter to Julian Neals, County Administrator and the County Executive saying that after four years if they could make it a priority to address the flooding issue due to no tide gate.

He said he was endeavoring to get General Services to get the bathroom sink fixed. He said it would be a challenge to get bridge the shoveled. A.Stroble said the Parks department has so much area to cover that they don’t get out of their trucks and can’t hand-shovel. D.Powell said that E.Pain advised at a previous meeting that he couldn't authorize a State contractor clearing County property. She observed the bridge is central to the story at New Bridge and so important to commuters going to the River Edge Train Stop. She wondered if mayors from Teaneck and New Milford would be interested in getting involved. M.Donohue asked what would asked happen if someone fell and sued. Chairman Smith asked what was maintenance schedule for the Campbell-Christie house. A.Strobel said he would look into it. Discussion about the lock box Brian Henning for the Campbell-Christie House. Concerns about theft but Brian Henning reluctantly would allow no lock box but ask if the Park Commission could vote on it. He said he is personally responsible but aware of the concerns regarding the collections. A.Strobel said there is a protocol where it has to be called in to obtain the lock box key. D.Powell pointed out that we did invite the River Edge Police Chief to a Park Commission meeting last summer to review security issues. He did not ask to have a lock box. Chairman Smith thanked A.Strobel for bringing it up to the commission, his concern is for insurance issues and do they wait for the person who has the key or do they break down the door. He noted the house is essentially a four-room house. River Edge is a volunteer department may have a delay getting to the house. A.Strobel stated all the County buildings have a box. When M. Donohue asked, he said the Brian didn't want to go in to how the box is secured since it wasn't wanted. E.Pain said there is no lock boxes on the Steuben House, there are none on any of the state park buildings. A.Strobel indicated it could be attached to the carbuncle of the Campbell-Christie House. Chairman Smith suggested the issue be tabled until next meeting when photos of the device could be made available. A.Strobel suggested, having a security system in place gave the Henning a level of comfort. D.Powell said neither antique buildings are sprinklered but the Society is planning to have sprinklers in the new museum building. Chairman Smith, moving on, said he was glad Adam’s family situation was better.
1. Sunshine Flooding due to Drain Flap missing, allowing water to come in property. Chairman Smith noted DEP Assistant Director John Trontis said he didn’t think permits were needed for routine maintenance.

2. Shoveling and clearing the bridge of snow for commuters. D.Powell said that A.Strobel in the past has said he didn’t think the County could do it. Chairman Smith observed the County of Bergen agreed to take on the responsibility of the 1889 bridge when BCHS sold the roadway for $1 in 1954. There is no pedestrian crossing on the modern 1954 bridge so commuters and residents have to cross here at the 1889 bridge. D.Powell noted that it is important crossing for people from Teaneck and New Milford and for the museum site and BCHS spends a lot of time and effort clearing their own property. J. Heffernan reminded there is a tree tangled in the bridge barrier which is continually tugging on the bridge.

3. Sagging bathroom sink that the County was going to replace. It was damaged from a leak from the new hot water heater directly above the bathroom.

4. Chairman Smith questioned whether the County of Bergen conducts a survey the Campbell-Christie House for exteriors repairs, like missing roof shingles.

E. DEP – Steuben House Eric Pain, DEP Representative. Superintendent Ringwood State Park. Submitted a report email:

12/7/17

DEP REPORT - Steuben House:

Floor Refinishing: Vendor has not completed the required paperwork. I am very pleased with the work the low bidder has completed for me in the past so I am inclined to be patient with him.

Snow Plowing

Low bid vendor is Green Meadows Contract has been awarded and confirmed with vendor. All areas will be maintained as specified including clearing a path from the Steuben House Porch to the bridge.

Tree Survey

TBD

Painting Prepared to move forward with the identification of paint color and painting of interior rooms at Steuben House. Should discuss selection of colors and priority of rooms.

Historic Marker-Funding and Vendor TBD

Miscellaneous Projects

Weather and staffing resulted in the inability to fully complete exterior painting before winter. This will be picked up in the spring.

Phone line ongoing.
SUEZ Spoke with Ray Cywinski Manager of Watershed and Environmental Resources in an attempt to be notified of reservoir discharges during storms. He was unable to get clearance to add me to the list and recommended that I contact New Milford for them to make contact once SUEZ has contacted them.

Projects List

1) Refinish, stain and seal flooring on main floor PO requested to be completed winter 2017 or spring 2018?

2) Painting Exterior/Interior Prepared to select color and move forward

Discussion:

Painting  E.Pain suggested sitting down after the holidays to schedule painting. He had unsigned report saying colors would be picked from primary base color. Smith thought it was the Milner report. Smith agreed and paint expert said not advisable to remove paint. He suggested starting in the downstairs rooms. D.Powell observed paint is following off the walls in the dwelling room, it may need to be plastered first. She said Kevin painted the house during evening hours (Steuben House). E.Pain said he preferred to use in-house staff if possible. D.Powell said we have 2 shutterdog that may be able to used to replace 2 stolen ones.

Historic Marker –The marker company is not registered vendor. They may be willing to fill out paperwork. Chairman Smith would contact them.

Miscellaneous Projects

Exterior painting could be finished in spring. D.Powell thought they were based on earlier study of paint.

Phone line ongoing. It is not resolved with Verizon claims it is fixed but as far as I can tell it has not been.

Suez and Water Release in storm –
Chairman Smith suggested the River Edge EOM could notify us if there was a release of water.

Rental of Parking Lot

A hot dog vendor wanted to lease Parking lot for business. Chairman Smith wondered if the fee goes to the site. E.Pain said it is possible, his office could handle the paperwork. The vendors may have to go to bidding but special use permit avoids that. E.Pain said he makes $1,500 a year with 2 food trucks each. If we had several trucks it could make it worth our while. If the site needs the parking the contract would not be renewed.

Guard rail where not needed by bridge

Since there is no road and traffic at the bridge Chairman Smith asked if the steel guard rail by the bridge could be removed to take out modern intrusions. If required, a wood guard could be installed. E.Pain said he would pass the request along.

Projects List:

3) Refinish, stain and seal flooring on main floor PO requested to be completed fall 2017. The project was approved, but the holdup is the contractor has to fill out paperwork and needs a purchase order.

4) Attic Light Fixtures Completed 10/12/17

5) Painting Exterior/Interior Waiting on feedback from SHPO
**F. Blauvelt-Demarest Foundation**

No report

**G. Bergen County Historical Society – Deborah Powell, Commissioner BCHS Representative.**

We had a very interesting Retreat Weekend - Countdown to 250. The whole site was open and we had some British soldiers who gave demonstrations and reenactments. The painting expert Tina Reichbach (who had a truly impressive resume and has examined many 18th century buildings) was really intrigued with the site. I gave her a tour of the Steuben House. She had offered to examine paint specimens at the SH. Unfortunately when I went to the attic I could not find the wood from the original stairs. Kevin specified that it be saved since they were original fabric to the house. We are stewards of the site, what better mechanisms do we put in place so it doesn't happen again?

Sinter Klaas was successful as an open house. I was talking all day. It was very rewarding to see so many visitors excited to visit. Hopefully we can have a report from John Heffernan on the road counter.

We received three of donations this past month, a very good example of a Hackensack Valley chair (with original rush seat) and like the ones the PC reps are sitting in. (DP shared image from iPad inventory) I personally donated a red ware bacon platter that a potter from Oxford made at Kevin's request. It is based on the one in the Wadsworth museum in CT "Hard Times in Jersey" made right here in River Edge by potter George Wolfkiel, we have many examples of his work on display in the room we are in. (DP opens cupboards) I bought, to use on a future publication of Kevin's New Bridge book, the "Retreat at New Bridge" painting by B.Spencer Newman, c. 1960, currently hanging on north wall of room we are sitting in. It show the troops coming across the bridge led by George Washington with Thomas Paine in the foreground who is reflecting the dire position of the continentals and what he is going to write “These are the times that try men's souls...” This was unveiled at the Retreat weekend.

I also met the conservator Gary McGowan who very generously augmented a restoration cash donation by the painting donor for a painting of a local River Edge woman Mary Robinson Blair. (DP shares image from iPad inventory - before and after photos) I couldn't find anything on her, those are the kind of things that float my boat.

Share new museum site plans, explained the exceptional designation by the DEP, it pushes the new building forward. A.Stobel questioned whether SHPO would review. D.Powell pointed out it is private land and private money. He said the Campbell-Christie is public. D. Powell responded “The house would be viewable from where people would be stopped at the intersection.” Chairman Smith pointed out we are trying to make this new building LEED certified. The new building has a very low impact, even the pavers would help absorb water. The building is on piles, no foundation.

So that leads to talking about a trip I made in August to Newport and how that city was saved by Doris Duke beginning in the 60s, she bought 18th century buildings - 67 buildings were saved. She restored them and lease them out to interested tenants so it really is a preservation model. Their October conference that someone went to was focused on flood issues for historic sites. The report generated is very comprehensive, looking at flood elevations and predictions. They offer solutions, like increasing pipe sizes, cisterns and the drain flaps/tide flaps that we've been requesting. D.Powell asked if the development going in above the site on Kinderkamack Rd has addressed where the water is going. It’s a bigger issue than us, she suggested the Meadowland and the County would be interested, FEMA may be able to help. She brought up whether we get the “Aquadams” flood barriers for the Steuben House. E. Pain said he is short on funds but we should be proactive to be ready for the next storm. E. Pain said the cost was a factor and the vendors did not want to come to area and demonstrate. She brought up raising the house, Chairman Smith asked “don't you end up destroying the house.”

D.Powell described being at the site at a recent full moon – no rain and seeing water fill in around the flag pole and comes in from the outlet created, then spreads between the Demarest House and Barn and from there to near the Steuben House. Wicking of water is damaging the Steuben House. D.Powell asked if there was any planning discussion at the County re: flood issues for Bergen County. A.Strobel said he had heard no discussion of rising water levels.
A. Strobel suggested the tidal flap project had not gone anywhere over the question of who was responsible. D. Powell pointed out Kevin Wright had provided documentation that it was the County’s responsibility. A. Strobel said it was not a public works project associated with a new development so doesn't get priority. Chairman Smith said he has their contact to reach out.


D. Powell said Jim Smith continues to show real leadership with the event programming like the Count Down to 250, these are the kinds of things that raises awareness of the history of the area and makes people feel very proud. D. Powell went on to describe the sold-out Candlelight Concerts per M. Donohue’s request.

Chairman Smith noted the 250th anniversary of this addition to the Steuben House, which took place in 1767. We were sitting in the 1767 addition. D. Powell described meeting a primitive technologist. She asked if anything happened with the Lidor Technology, E. Pain said he would revisit. D. Powell said she would like to discuss the new interpretive signage, she asked if E. Pain’s staff could help mount them, he said he thought they would be able to.

IX. New Business
Next year’s meeting dates:
Jan 4, Feb 1, Mar 1, Apr 5, May 3, June 7, Jul 11 (2nd Wednesday due to July 4 Holiday week), Aug 2, Sept 6, Oct 4, Nov 1, Dec 6, Jan 3, 2019.

IX. Public Comment
No comment.

X. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn. First, M. Donohue; Second, D. Powell, Motion carried.
Chairman Smith – Have a fantastic weekend everyone.

The next regular meeting of the Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission will be held at 7 PM at Historic New Bridge Landing, 1201-1209 Main Street, River Edge, New Jersey, 07661 on Thursday, February 1, 2018, meet in the Campbell-Christie House. A future meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 1, 2018.