

The Historic New Bridge Landing State Park Commission

Annual Report for 2016



A young visitor peers into an open window to see what is happening at the Steuben House at Historic New Bridge Landing State Park, for Calico Frolic 2016.





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 2016.

2016 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 2016

Larry Bauer (Teaneck)

James Bellis (Blauvelt-Demarest Foundation)

Mary Donohue (River Edge), Vice-Chairwoman

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

W. John Oddie (Teaneck)

Deborah Powell (Bergen County Historical Society), Treasurer

Thea Sirrochi-Hurley (New Milford)

James Smith (Bergen County Historical Society), Chairman

Adam Strobel (County of Bergen)

Kevin Wright, Secretary, (Alternate for the Blauvelt-Demarest Foundation)

John Heffernan (Alternate for the Bergen County Historical Society).

2016 Pictorial Year in Review (a brief snapshot)





Visiting New Bridge



Washington's Birthday



Authors' Day



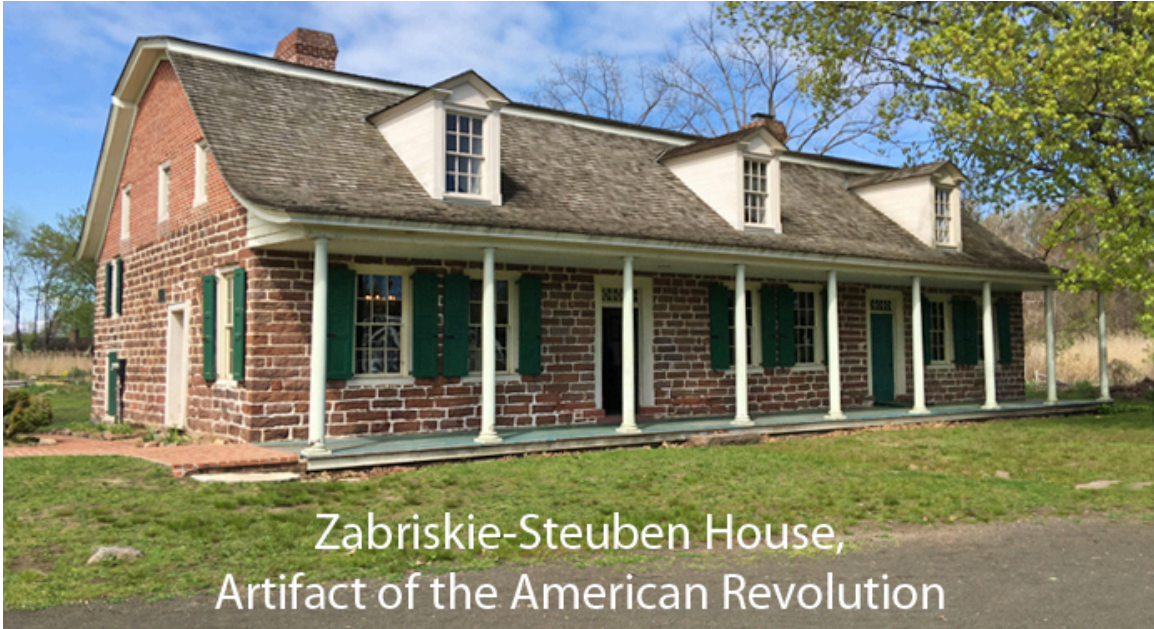
Battleground Walking Tour



Twelfth Night 2016



Chwame Gischuch: Under the Shad Moon



Zabriskie-Steuben House,
Artifact of the American Revolution



Scout Bridge Project



& Mitzvah Day



Stamp Act
Events Leading up to the American Revolution



Royal Document Box on
Exhibit - BCHS collections



Vintage Baseball at New Bridge Landing





The Bergen County Historical Society and the Brigade of the American Revolution, co-sponsored our **Retreat to Victory** weekend of living history and scholarly presentations on November 19-20th, 2016. *Above*, General Green attempts to rally the retreating troops at the bridge while British forces begin to advance. *Below*, soldiers take a break at the spot of the “Liberty Pole” as they recreated the retreat from Fort Lee to New Bridge, as mentioned in Thomas Paine’s *the Crisis*. At all events, we have strived for the highest level of authenticity to help educate the public.





2016 will always be marked by the heartbreaking passing of Kevin Wright, husband, father, scholar of history and a person who was passionate about New Jersey's history. Kevin truly was someone who was passionate about history and had a skill of telling a story about a topic that is unmatched without making the listener feel as if they were less of a person for not knowing. Besides his passion for local history, one of the lasting achievements Kevin will have is finally moving the Bergen County Historical Society's museum project forward! Ultimately this building will change how one visits New Bridge Landing, views the collections of the Bergen County Historical Society and will lead to the reinterpretation of the Zabriskie-Steuben House. It will offer proper bathroom facilities, a new gift shop, climate controlled for artifact presentation and storage, all benefits to Historic New Bridge Landing Park and its future use.

Below, the Bergen County Historical Society's 33rd Annual Colonial Christmas Concerts and Tavern nights were held on December 17-18, 2016. A magical weave of stories and song, these concerts by Linda Russell & Companie have become a family tradition and are now attended by the third generation of some families.



33rd Year of Christmas Concerts at New Bridge Landing



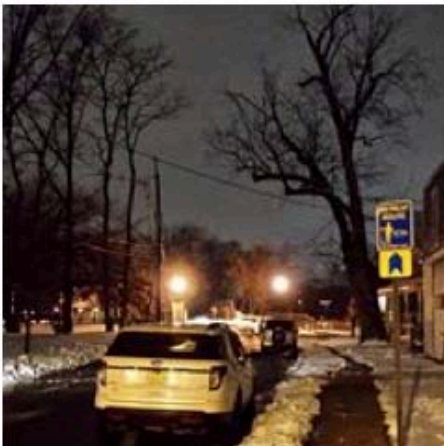
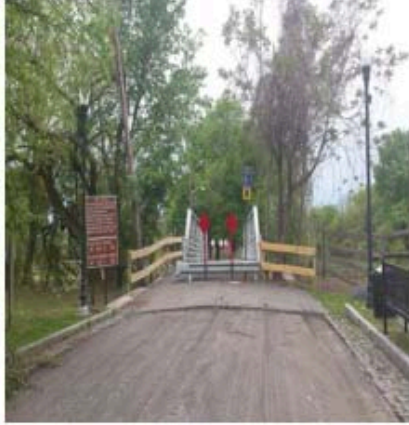
Above, in March, fence rails were approved to connect the four post rail on Bergen County Historical Society to the Steuben House. This now prevents vehicles from driving up onto the property and controls the pedestrian flow. *Below*, volunteers with the B.C.H.S Buildings and Grounds Committee tend to the Tavern garden with period appropriate plantings.



This year also saw the completion of some much needed projects that ensured the long term stability of core resources. *Above*, work began and was completed of the long awaited mortar project on the Steuben House. Mortar damaged during a 2007 nor'easter was repaired or replaced to provide stability for the house. *Below*, rotted porch columns were repaired or replaced, also on the Steuben House. Note, due to the gate and fence rail being put up, the red reflectors that were placed on the bridge were removed, improving the appearance to the important river crossing.



Above, the “first object” as mentioned by Thomas Paine in the Crisis appears neglected and uninvited from Teaneck and New Milford. A stockade fence was put up to hide a metal fence that surrounded the former saw shop property. Below, an Eagle Scout project returned the fence rails / guard rails to their early 20th century appearance using B.C.H.S images to improve the “core” of Historic New Bridge Landing.



Work on the Eagle Scout project that restored the early 20th century guard rails. Note the 1776 Retreat Sign, which was once placed on the bridge and acted as a visual distraction has now been moved further up Main St. through the coordination of the H.N.B.L.P.C. and New Milford. The sign now acts as a visual for the visitor to continue toward the bridge and no longer takes away from the visual

How and When Were State Lands at Historic New Bridge Landing Acquired and Administered?

By Kevin W. Wright©2015

This was written eighty-seven years ago. Is its sentiment still timely?

“Steuben House a Disgrace”

“When the State of New Jersey purchased the old Steuben House for preservation as a historic relic, it assumed a moral obligation for its upkeep.

This responsibility our lawmakers in Trenton shunned by refusing to appropriate the necessary money to make repairs to the building and keep the grounds in order.

The structure, about which much romance lingers, stands today a disgrace to the state and a disgrace to the county. What are patriotic organizations of Bergen County going to do about it?

... It should be a matter of county pride to see that the Steuben House is given the care it deserves and we hope for prompt action to that end on the part of several organizations and individuals.”

The Bergen Evening Record, August 7, 1929



The Zabriskie-Steuben House about 1925. This is the only known image to depict the eighteenth-century bake house to the north of the mansion.

Our journey begins with the Sesquicentennial of American Independence (1776-1926) and the accompanying surge in interest in Revolutionary War sites. Few surviving relics of the American Revolution in New Jersey were more intriguing or deserving of

preservation than the old Baron Steuben House in River Edge, a cynosure of Jersey Dutch architecture, steeped in associations with the great American struggle for self-government. Here Washington had headquartered for ten days in September 1780. This was New Jersey's gift to the German baron who had trained the first American army. Here was an American battleground certainly worthy of preservation, but all was not well. In 1923, its owners had leased the old stone mansion for a tearoom, serving the touring car trade out of New York City and its suburbs. To accommodate the restaurant, an interior stone wall and chimney, including a jambless Dutch fireplace, were removed to turn two parlors into one large room. This poorly conceived renovation threatened the very integrity of the structure, weakening the roof and threatening an invasion of the elements. What could and should be done?

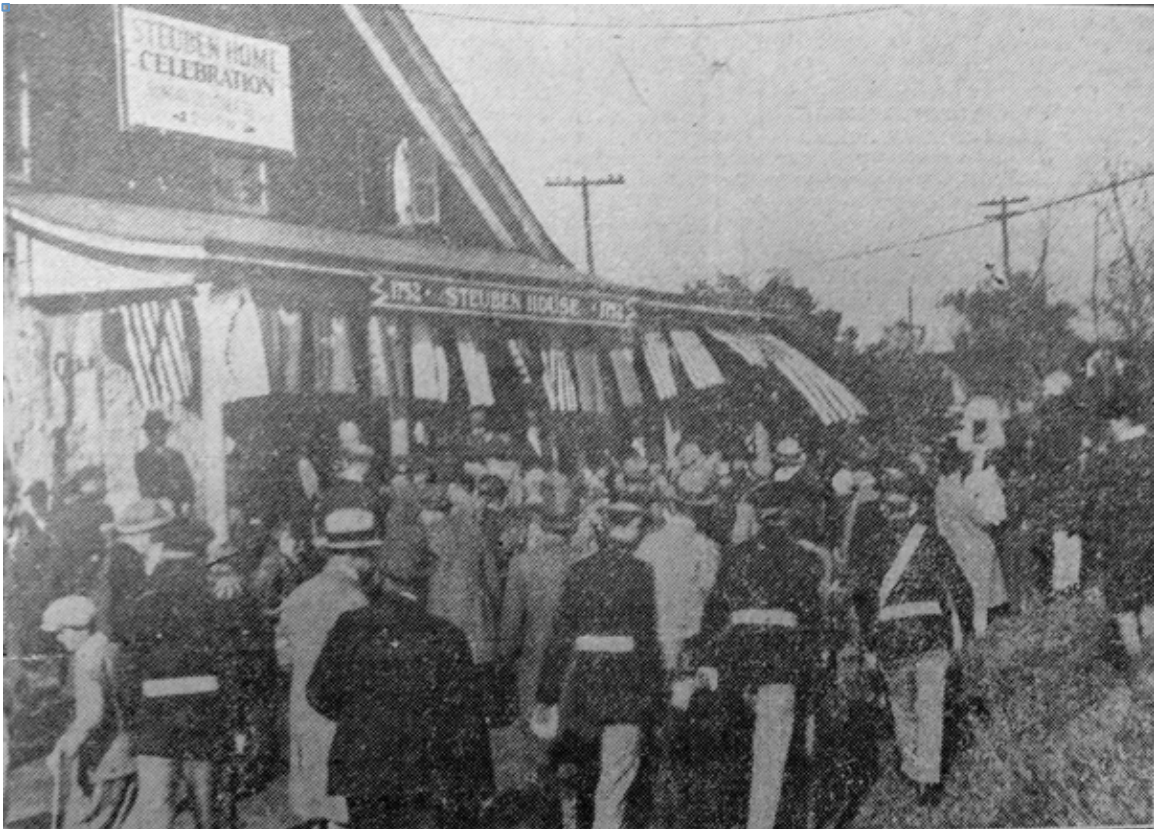
On January 26, 1926, Bergen County's Senator William B. Mackay Jr. introduced a bill to preserve the Baron von Steuben House in River Edge under auspices of the State of New Jersey, saying, "this so-called Steuben House is a place of national significance dear to the heart of every Jerseyman who wishes it to be preserved." Without a single dissenting vote, the legislature passed a bill (Chapter 15, Public Laws of 1926) on Washington's Birthday in 1926 to establish the three-member Steuben House Commission for the purpose of acquiring the old stone mansion and its grounds as a historic memorial. The commission was specifically charged with buying the property for a sum not to exceed \$12,000, and invested with the full responsibility of caring for it and keeping it open for public inspection under the supervision of a caretaker. It was further empowered to permit such persons and societies as it saw fit to occupy the historic house, once it was acquired. The commissioners were to serve without compensation and were required to make an annual report to the Legislature.

Upon the recommendations of Senator Mackay and Judge George Van Buskirk, Governor A. Harry Moore appointed two prominent members of the Bergen County Historical Society, namely, Joseph Kinzley Jr., of Teaneck, former Republican sheriff of Bergen County; and Margaret Porch Hamilton, of Leonia, former Democratic Assembly candidate, to the Steuben House Commission. After conferring with Louis Auerbacher Jr., of Newark, chairman of the legislative committee of the Steuben Society, he also named Dr. Robert F. Mautner, of Elizabeth as the commission's third member. The Steuben House Commission first met in Governor Moore's office on June 2, 1926.

From the outset, the Steuben House Commission experienced difficulty in locating Mrs. Walter W. Irwin, sister of William Randolph Hearst, the wealthy owner of the property, who traveled extensively. It was originally hoped the owners might deed the property to the state of New Jersey as a patriotic act. Instead, they demanded the full \$12,000 appropriation for the house alone, even though the property on which it stood was then valued at \$3,500 to \$4,000 per acre. The owners repeatedly declined offers based upon valuations from qualified realtors and, after a year of fruitless negotiation, Joseph Kinzley, chairman of the Steuben House Commission, conferred with Governor Moore and asked for an amendment to the law in February 1927 "so as to clothe the Commission with the necessary power to condemn if we are unable to acquire it by gift or purchase." The legislature accordingly granted use of the power of eminent domain to take the

property. Condemnation proceedings were initiated to take title to the old house, as well as to the water frontage on the Hackensack River owned by Walter Benson. In May 1928, the Hearst interests decided to contest the condemnation proceedings. While the Steuben House Commission prevailed, it cost the astounding sum of \$12,000 to acquire the house on only an acre of ground, frustrating efforts to preserve the surrounding battleground as a public historical park.

Acting through the Steuben House Commission, the state of New Jersey formally took title to the Steuben House and one acre on Sunday, October 21, 1928. Three thousand people attended the dedication of the Steuben House as a state historic site, including members of the Steuben Society, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Boy Scouts, veterans' associations, and others. A large crowd applauded as Joseph Kinzley handed the deed to Assemblyman Ralph W. Chandless, who represented the state. It was hoped that renovations of the interior and its surroundings might "establish an institution of some sort that may be maintained for generations to come."



Three thousand people attend the ceremony marking state acquisition of the Steuben House on October 21, 1928.

In February 1929, former county sheriff Joseph Kinzley Jr., chairman of the Steuben House Commission, asked for an appropriation of \$100,000 to repair and restore the building, expecting that even a smaller amount could do much good. *The Bergen Evening*

Record called attention to the fact, “The Steuben house as it now stands and the property nearby are a disgrace to the state and an eyesore to the county. If the relic and its immediate surroundings are put into decent condition, enough will have been accomplished for the present.” It was further hoped the historic landmark and acreage in the rear of the house could be developed into a public park. The *Record* concluded, “Efforts to restore the old Steuben house and the adjoining grounds to some semblance of respectability will be approved by most Bergen County residents.”

Bergen County Assemblyman Robert W. Purdy supported the requested appropriation as the building was “in such dilapidated condition that it must be rebuilt in part to prevent it from collapsing.” This dire state of affairs apparently came about by the removal of an interior stone wall in 1923, which included a jambless Dutch fireplace and chimney, set in the original end wall of the 1752 house, to open two parlors into one large tea room for restaurant purposes. Assemblywoman Agnes Jones, of Essex County, a leading member the joint appropriations committee, opposed the appropriation.

On July 17, 1929, the *Bergen Evening Record* reported, “The State of New Jersey has never contributed a cent toward the upkeep of the Steuben House, a historical North Hackensack building of Revolutionary War times, despite the fact that two years ago it bought the old building for memorial purposes....” The neglect continued despite chairman Joseph Kinzley’s best efforts to secure a state appropriation. In an editorial published on August 7, 1929, and headlined “Steuben House a Disgrace,” the *Bergen Evening Record* opined:

“When the State of New Jersey purchased the old Steuben House for preservation as a historic relic, it assumed a moral obligation for its upkeep.

This responsibility our lawmakers in Trenton shunned by refusing to appropriate the necessary money to make repairs to the building and keep the grounds in order.

The structure, about which much romance lingers, stands today a disgrace to the state and a disgrace to the county. What are patriotic organizations of Bergen County going to do about it?

Several methods are open. One of the best, it would seem, would be for the Bergen County Historical Society to demand action by Governor Larson.

The Sons of the Revolution, with hundreds of members in Bergen County, might join in a vigorous protest. It is a matter of concern to every patriotic resident.

Are there not among the Boy Scout executives those who will lead the troops to the Steuben House, cut down the weeds and put the grounds in some semblance of decency? Who might better assume this task until the state is shaken from its lethargy?

It should be a matter of county pride to see that the Steuben House is given the care it deserves and we hope for prompt action to that end on the part of several organizations and individuals.”

As the house that survived more of the American Revolution than any other in America

was “nearing a state of ruin,” the Frank J. Van Wetering Post, V. F. W., undertook the task of reclaiming the building, which had virtually disappeared behind an overgrowth of weeds. Hiram B. Blauvelt, president of the Bergen County Historical Society, joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars in denouncing state neglect. It was learned that former sheriff Kinzley contributed the only funds expended on repairs and general maintenance. The Bergen County Historical Society therefore urged Governor Morgan F. Larson to appropriate \$25,000 in a timely manner to preserve the ancient fabric of the building. One Society member noted that it had been alerted only two or three days earlier to a published report announcing the demolition of the Mansion House in Hackensack, opposite the Court House, where Washington made his headquarters in November 1776. The Steuben Society, one of the leaders in the movement to preserve its namesake’s former home, contributed nothing to its preservation.

On August 7, 1929, the *Bergen Evening Record* asked, “Has the state senator from Bergen or any of the assemblymen moved to provide for the Steuben House through any of the customary legislative channels?” Its editor insisted, “Regrettable though it would be, the Steuben House might better be demolished than continue to stand, a disgrace to the state and to the county, and an eyesore to the community.” Patriotic folks were urged to continue their care because “the old house is fast going and needs a thorough overhauling if it is to be held for posterity.”

Assemblyman Joseph Marini of Bergen County introduced a bill in 1930 to convert the Steuben House into a museum, empowering the Steuben House Commission to rebuild, repair and improve the Steuben House and surrounding grounds. It was understood that “the annual appropriation bill will include an appropriation sufficient to cover these expenses.” Assemblywoman Emma Peters, Bergen County member of the appropriations committee, supported the \$100,000 appropriation, but expected \$50,000 by way of compromise. The statement attached to the bill (No. 318) noted, “the building, which is of historical importance, is now in a much dilapidated condition and it is necessary to rebuild and repair the same so that it may be established as a museum. It is also necessary that the commission be given the necessary authority and funds to care for and manage the property.”

The joint appropriations committee decided against any appropriation and, once again, the *Bergen Evening Record* reported, “Bergen County people who want to see the state take proper care of the Steuben House are interested in the fact that while the appropriation bill now pending does not provide one cent for the repair and maintenance of the Steuben House, it provides [...] appropriations for other causes....” Despite state ownership and widespread support in Bergen County, the legislature adjourned “with no thought for the care of the building at New Bridge....”

On August 30, 1929, the Veterans’ Legislative Committee, meeting in Newark and representing 100,000 veterans of all wars, added its voice to the outcry, already raised by the Frank J. Van Wetering Post 316, Veterans of Foreign Wars, in Hackensack, and the General George S. Green Post 761, of Dumont. Its secretary, William C. Fay, of Teaneck, recommended an emergency appropriation from contingency funds held by the State

House Commission to immediately fund repairs. Veterans from Essex, Camden and Mercer counties gave their support and it soon became evident “that the Steuben House question has become of state-wide interest.” Accordingly, the Bergen County Board of Freeholders agreed to provide \$1,000 for the maintenance of the Steuben House over the approaching winter, if the county’s legislative delegation would secure the enactment of laws making it possible “for the state to maintain the old colonial shrine in the future.” Senator Chandless thought it necessary to legislatively amplify the Steuben House Commission’s powers in order to have it maintain and oversee the preservation and operation of the Steuben House. He also agreed to seek reimbursement of whatever funds the county expended to preserve the state historic property. In writing to the Governor and to the State House Commission, he stated, “I believe that we in Bergen County are interested in the proper maintenance of this historical memorial and although it may be the primary duty of the State of New Jersey to finance the maintenance of this worthy project, if the State is temporarily unable to do so through a legal technicality as it apparently is, then it strikes me that Bergen County should be willing to step in and help out.” Since the State House Commission had lawful authority “to contribute funds toward the maintenance of monuments in any public place in the county,” he successfully asked it for temporary maintenance funds, amounting to \$1,000, to prevent damage to the building from the elements over the coming winter.

This emergency fund did not go very far. By the beginning of May 1930, the Steuben House Commission expended the last few dollars and therefore was forced to lay off the caretaker residing in the Steuben House. Bergen County’s legislative delegation took up the fight once more in the fall. In the meantime, architect Wesley S. Bessell prepared a “plan for the proposed restoration of the Steuben House, which would “retain all of the atmosphere which has sprung from its rich traditions, and still be a shrine of beauty.” In January 1930, it was announced that the new Assembly speaker, William Knight, of Camden County, was inclined to appoint Bergen County Assemblyman Robert W. Purdy to the appropriations committee, which Assemblyman Charles Otto, of Union County, was expected to chair. In February 1930, Assemblyman Joseph Marini sponsored Bill No. 319, which purposed to convert the Steuben House into museum, giving the Steuben House Commission “the necessary power, authority and funds to care for and manage the property.”

With its partial collapse imminent, the Steuben House Commission pleaded for the ongoing care and proper management of the Steuben House with reliable annual appropriations. Proponents of the historic site, including the *Bergen Evening Record*, noted, “Old Dutch Colonial architecture, even with no historic significance, is fast disappearing. This antique building, state property, rich in legends and history, a shrine in its possibilities, has been ignored year after year by those charged with the responsibility of making financial provisions for the care of the state’s interests.”

Assemblywoman Emma Peters, a member of the joint appropriations committee, succeeded in May 1931 in at least obtaining an appropriation for emergency repairs. She said, “I believe that the \$10,000 will help pay for a much needed new roof for the Steuben House and will also help to meet the claims of the caretaker of the property and

cover some other bills.” Consequently, the Steuben House Commission received bids on June 18, 1931, to make emergency repairs from Collins Construction Company (\$6,116); John C. Hoth (\$6,930), Ferber Construction Company (\$7,150), and Frank Bogert (\$9,200). The commission’s legal counsel Louis Auerbacher drew up contracts, awarding the project to the lowest bidder, who would work under supervision of architect Wesley S. Bessell. Civil service certification was also filed for the purpose of appointing a resident caretaker once repairs were completed. Plans were made “to enlist all patriotic support for the further improvement of the building looking toward establishing the house as a landmark of Washington’s retreat through New Jersey.” The Daughters of the American Revolution requested a room in the repaired colonial mansion.

To historically refute contentions made that the Steuben House was not authentic and that it was not standing during the American Revolution, Miss Saretta Demarest, of Teaneck, compiled a groundbreaking study of the historic fabric of the old structure, proving its antiquity. She was the first to explain how the house “really contains a house within a house,” noting the additions were built before the American Revolution. She pointed out that rat-tail nails were used in hand-split laths, window frames and doorframes, attesting to its mid-eighteenth-century construction. In contrast, mill-sawn laths were used in a later addition. She also noted the Holland brick and old clay mortar, tempered with straw, used in the low circular vault in the rear of the house. “Holy Lord” or “H L” hinges, predating 1770, were also found throughout the house. She concluded, “The Steuben House is not only an historical site in connection with Baron Steuben, but also a Revolutionary War site, and an outstanding one in Bergen County.”

In July 1931, Chairman Joseph Kinzley expressed gratitude to Assemblywoman Emma Peters for her success in securing the emergency appropriation. Architect Wesley Bessell thought the house could be made “fairly habitable for next winter, though our plans make no provision for heating or sanitation.” Despite these limitations, he hoped to set aside a room or two as caretaker’s quarters. Former sheriff Kinzley promised to make the most of the emergency funding, remarking, “Tearing down decaying structures, removing accumulated debris, rebuilding stone walls, fireplaces and chimneys is costly and restoration is far more expensive than new work.” Even in making emergency repairs, the contractor was “directed to preserve all the old Holland brick, hand-hewn beams, stone block and old sills in the building. A beamed ceiling, which has been re-plastered is reputed to be one of the finest examples of the Colonial period in this section. An antique step, which for many years was used in the demolished Hackensack Courthouse, has been secured for the entrance.”

Kinzley concluded, “We are hopeful that next year there will be an awakening of those responsible for state property to a realization of the fact that many people in New Jersey believe this fine old colonial structure is worth what it will cost to restore and preserve. History proves that in years past state officials gave it concern. The present day records show that all patriotic organizations are desirous of its proper restoration. Our hope is that the legislature of 1932 will definitively and properly consider its obligation to complete what it started when it purchased the old structure for preservation. It will be a fitting monument to the memory of the man who, out of despair at Valley Forge, created the

soldiery which enabled Washington to be the victor at Yorktown.” Meanwhile, large numbers of visitors were “making special trips to see it almost every day from all parts of the state.”

On June 20, 1938, a crew of WPA workmen began a \$20,000 renovation of the Steuben House with the New Jersey Historic Sites Commission contributing \$3,000 and the WPA supplying \$15,800 worth of labor. A new oil heating system, a bath and lavatory were installed. Original floorboards of the ground level were removed and the floor level raised about six inches; new random-oak flooring was installed in the front rooms over concrete pads poured between the original floor joists. In the front rooms on the first floor, original plaster walls and ceilings were either removed or concealed as a sand-finish plaster was applied over expanded metal lath. A system of subterranean concrete conduits (called French drains) were installed to drain the grounds and the New Jersey Highway Department built an 18' driveway around the house (removed in 2001). A mid-nineteenth century frame kitchen wing was torn off the southwest corner of the building. Lastly, whitewash coating the east and south elevations of the house was sandblasted and a temporary concrete porch pad was laid in front.

On October 14, 1938, Thomas Marple, assistant director of the Historic Sites Commission, invited the Bergen County Historical Society to occupy the restored Steuben House as their museum headquarters. The Society accepted on October 20, 1938. The Hackensack Boys Workshop of the National Youth Administration set about splitting rails and posts from condemned chestnut telephone poles to fence the Steuben House property on August 19, 1939. The renovated house was formally dedicated on September 23, 1939. Thomas Marple, director and secretary of the New Jersey Historic Sites Commission, represented the state. A red oak, the official state tree, was planted near the northeast corner of the front porch, where it remains to this day.

Three hundred people attended the dedication ceremony, which featured Francis C. Koehler, president of the Bergen County Historical Society, and Thomas Marples, director of the State Historic Sites Commission. According to newspaper accounts, Francis Koehler “spoke of the conversion of the building into a historical museum as the realization of a boyhood dream.” Thomas Marples “declared that the Steuben House was one of the most interesting and important historical sites the State had acquired.” The program also “included singing by three Indians, who are in the vicinity in connection with the filming of a motion picture dealing with the history of a vanished New Jersey tribe.” They were Chief Red Wing, a Cherokee; Chief Blow Snake, a Winnipeg; and Princess Naomi, a Sioux. It was noted at the time that “many ranking officers on both sides of the [Revolutionary] war were quartered at the Steuben House, including George Washington when in 1776 he led his forces in a retreat from Fort Lee toward Trenton and again in 1780 when his army occupied the village.” Others included Light Horse Harry Lee, Mad Anthony Wayne, Lord Cornwallis, Sir Charles Grey, and Sir John Baird in 1778. General Lee started his expedition against Paulus Hook from the mansion.

The house was not restored in 1938-39 as a period home or as an artifact of its time, but



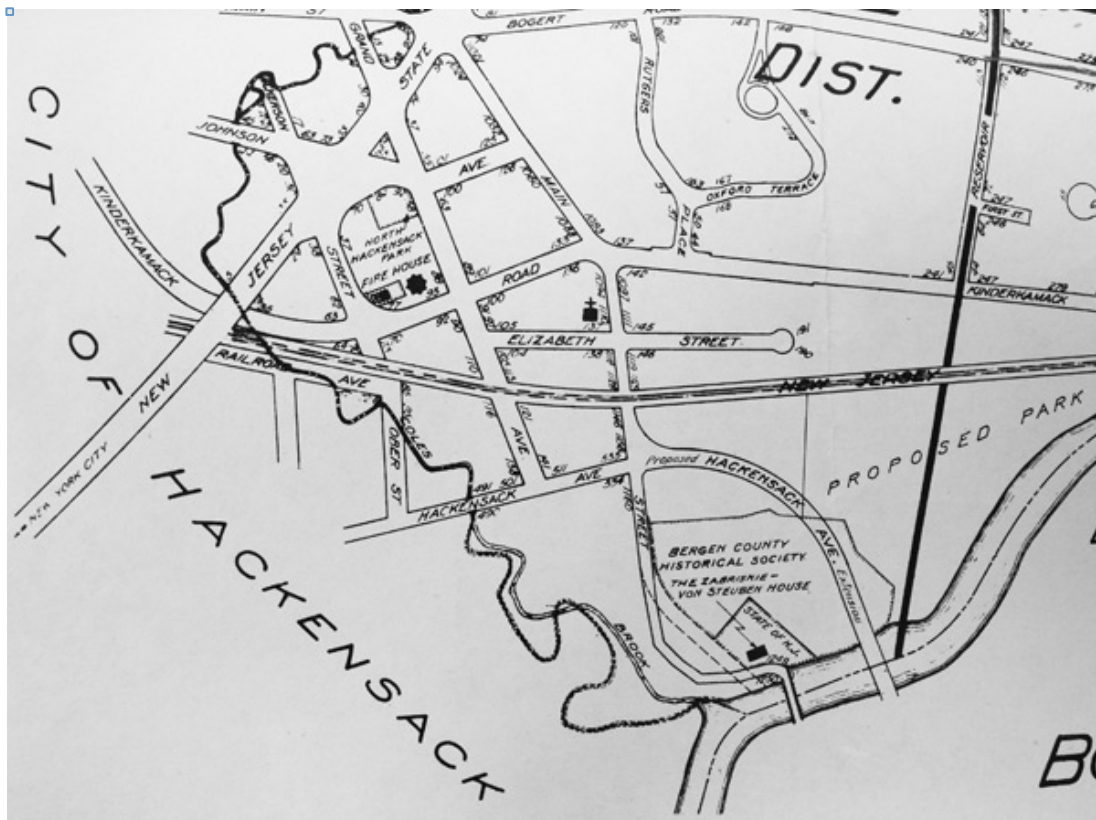
rather the state converted its front rooms into a museum for showcases to display artifacts with an office and library on a part of the second floor in the rear, and four small rooms (originally two upstairs and two downstairs) for a caretaker's residence. The Society began meeting in the historic homestead in 1940. The museum regularly opened between 10 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. from Tuesday through Saturday. Admission was free and 3,000 schoolchildren visited during the first year.

Although the Zabriskie-Steuben House as regarded as "one of the most significant shrines in the State," an automobile junkyard to the west was expanding with the potential to reach the very back door of the house. Fires started in wrecked cars menaced the historic building several times. In April 1941, Francis C. Koehler, president of the Bergen County Historical Society, appealed for support for a bill, which would authorize the Commission on Historic Sites to acquire eight acres adjoining the Baron von Steuben House, including some shore frontage, at a cost not exceeding \$3,000 for a park. He had an option on it at the quoted price, expiring July 31, 1941. The land in question belonged to Mrs. Phoebe Hearst, mother of William Randolph Hearst, and was appraised at \$1,100. It had been acquired many years earlier for industrial purposes. The extra property was needed partly for parking at the Steuben House, as visitors to the house were then required to park along narrow New Bridge Road, creating a bottleneck. Construction of a large development on River Road in New Milford made it increasingly dangerous to park

along the busy road approaches to the old bridge.

As to the significance of the ground, Koehler notes, "History seldom records the fact that the crossing of the Delaware in December 1776 was made possible by the safe crossing of the Hackensack a month previous." He contended Washington's retreat across the New Bridge on November 20, 1776, was a turning point since "the Revolutionary War was decided at the location on the Hackensack River rather than at the crossing of the Delaware a month later in 1776."

As the state failed to fund acquisition of the land adjacent to the Steuben House, threatened by an expanding auto junkyard, the Bergen County Historical Society responded to the threat of encroachment and the lack of parking facilities by purchasing 7.3 acres lying west of the Steuben House. Acting in trust for the Bergen County Historical Society, David D. Bellis acquired the property on April 18, 1944, thereby saving a large portion of the Revolutionary War battleground. The Society vigorously contested the county's revived plans to build a new river crossing adjacent to the Steuben House in 1947. The right-of-way for the approaching roadway on the west side of the



Above, this 1952 master plan map of the borough of River Edge shows the lands of the Bergen County historical Society and the state of New Jersey. Note the original right-of-way for a proposed new bridge, running along the south gable end of the Steuben House and the "proposed Hackensack Avenue Extension", which moved the new county bridge away from the landmark house, preserving the American Revolutionary War battleground.

river is still evident on the tax map, showing the road corridor as it would have crossed immediately south of the Steuben House to the river's edge.

Beginning its descent into a disinterested bureaucracy, the State Historic Sites Commission's functions and properties were transferred to the Division of Forestry, Geology, Parks and Historic Sites in 1945. Twenty historic sites, either partially or wholly supported by the state, were placed under the Division's administrative jurisdiction and a Bureau of Historic Sites was created for their management and care. In the re-organization of state government following the adoption of the new State Constitution in 1947, "Historic Sites" was ominously dropped from the Division's title. The Division was absorbed into a Division of Planning and Development, Department of Conservation and Economic Development. In 1961, the name was changed to the Division of Resource Development.

To redirect the location of the proposed new span away from the dooryard of the Steuben House, the Bergen County Historical Society deeded a right-of-way, 60 feet wide, with 10 foot slope rights, across its property for \$1.00 on January 13, 1953, to provide for an extension of Hackensack Avenue northeast from the intersection of Main Street in River Edge to the site of a proposed new bridge. In December 1953, the Bergen County Board of Freeholders announced plans to replace the narrow iron bridge with a modern span as part of a proposed military highway to connect Hackensack and Englewood. County engineer Roscoe P. McClave designed a new structure that would cross the river about 300 feet north of the old New Bridge, permitting an extension of Hackensack Avenue in River Edge to connect with Brookside Avenue in New Milford, just beyond Roosevelt Avenue, thus straightening out what was described as "perhaps the most crooked overland route in Bergen County." (*Bergen Evening Record*, 13 December 1954).

The new roadway and bridge, projected to cost \$500,000, was declared a military route to gain federal dollars. On November 11, 1954, the Freeholders applied to the Federal Bureau of Public Roads for approximately \$250,000 in federal aid for the project. The new bridge was designed 44 feet wide (with pedestrian walkways on both sides of the roadway) and 250 feet in length. In comparison, the old iron swing bridge was 20 feet wide and 100 feet long. A strike delayed the arrival of steel needed for construction of the new fixed-span bridge, which finally opened in June 1956. The bridge alone cost \$218,000. The Army Corps of Engineers considered the old bridge an impediment to navigation and tried to make its removal a permit requirement for erection of its replacement. The Woman's Club of Bergen County joined the Bergen County Historical Society in a call to preserve the 1889 swing-bridge across the Hackensack River. Colonel John T. O'Neill, of the Army Corps of Engineers, yielded to Freeholder Walter M. Neill, who promised that the County of Bergen would henceforth maintain the old bridge, if it were spared.

Once the location of the new bridge and its approaches was settled, plans developed for a historical park centering upon the Steuben House. In 1954-56, the Demarest Memorial Foundation (now the Blauvelt-Demarest Foundation) painstakingly disassembled the Demarest House on its original site, where the Elks Club now stands behind the present

New Milford Borough Hall at 1 Patrolman Woods Lane, and reconstructed it on Main Street, River Edge, directly behind the Steuben House, taking a 99-year lease for 2,800 square feet from the Bergen County Historical Society. The Red Barn (an 1889 English-style dairy barn or “cow house,” also known as the Westervelt-Thomas Barn) was moved from Ridgewood Road, Washington Township, and reconstructed in its present location behind the Steuben House in November 1954. The Old Red Barn featured an assemblage of ancient farming implements, old sleighs, a picnic wagon or runabout, harness and saddles. Farming implements included a wooden shovel found in the 1776 House in Tappan, NY; yokes for oxen, sheep and pigs; a plowshare carved from the crutch of a tree; a broom-making machine; a corn-shucker; a wheat separator; an automatic seeding machine (1864); a cobbler bench; axes; saws; traps; a wagon jack; and even an old divining rod. Parking was available south of the Steuben House on the Society’s property. The Westervelt-Thomas Barn was opened to the public on October 14, 1956.

On January 13, 1959, the Bergen County Historical Society deeded part of its lands, just south of the house, to the state of New Jersey, acting through the Division of Planning



Above, this photograph was taken in 1956 when the new Hackensack River bridge at New Bridge was dedicated. The Steuben House stands to the left and the newly reconstructed Demarest House and Westervelt-Thomas Barn to the right.

and Development in the Department of Conservation and Economic Development, to provide the first parking lot for the Steuben House. The Maintenance Division of the State Highway Department completed construction of the parking area in May 1960. The project also included installation of a brick walk with a “basket-weave pattern” on a 4-inch concrete base, leading from the new parking lot to the south end of the Steuben House. In July 2001, a portion of this walkway was re-laid to form a ramp to the level of the new wooden porch.

Recent state acquisitions

The Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission was originally established by legislation (PL 1995, Chapter 260) to coordinate and implement governmental and private development policies and other activities incidental to the preservation, maintenance, restoration and interpretation of the historic riverfront village surrounding New Bridge, so as to optimize its educational and recreational benefit to the public. Since this historic neighborhood spans the Hackensack River at the intersection of four municipalities (namely, River Edge, New Milford, Teaneck, and Hackensack), the commission provided for an intercommunicative forum to inform and coordinate decisions made by diverse public and private entities having ownership of properties within the Commission's jurisdiction. As originally empowered, the Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission consisted of a representative from the County of Bergen, a representative from the Blauvelt-Demarest Foundation, a representative of the Borough of River Edge, a representative from the Borough of New Milford, two representatives from the Bergen County Historical Society, and two representatives from the Township of Teaneck. The director of the NJDEP's Division of Parks and Forestry was the ninth commissioner.

With funds from the Open Space and Historic Preservation Trust Fund, the state of New Jersey acquired the Saw Shop property on Old New Bridge Road in New Milford, immediately adjacent to the east abutment of the iron swing-bridge, on



October 28, 2000, for about \$120,000. Storekeeper James Natalo originally built this wooden building as a boathouse and soda fountain in 1913 on riparian lands adjacent

to his store. For the time being, the current resident and owner of the small lawn-mower business was be allowed to stay. This sale marked the first property acquisition since the establishment of the HNBL Park Commission in 1995. Moreover, it represented a major commitment by the state of New Jersey to the on-going efforts of the Commission, and it recognized the historical significance of the eastern side of the Hackensack River as part of the Revolutionary War battleground. Negotiations to acquire the Pizza Town property (owned by the Kaferon Trust) at the corner of Hackensack Avenue and Main Street in River Edge and the adjacent residence (Sutton & Lys property) were continuing.

The federal grant used to acquire and clean the Bergenfield Auto Parts Company (“BAPCO”) property at the intersection of Main Street and Hackensack Avenue/New Bridge Road in River Edge originated at a meeting in US Senator Robert Torricelli’s Newark office on January 18, 2000. Senator Torricelli announced a federal appropriation of \$1.1 million to the Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission at a press conference in the Campbell-Christie House in January 2001.

On June 7, 2001, Gregory Marshall, director of the NJDEP Division of Parks and Forestry, reported he and his staff were working with Joseph DiBello in the National Park Service Regional Support Center in Philadelphia to work out an agreement for transfer of



the federal grant by the end of July 2001. Acting in trust for the Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission, the Department of Environmental Protection signed an agreement with the National Park Service to turn over the \$1.1 million federal grant and was awaiting the reciprocal signature from Marie Rush, the NPS Regional Director in Philadelphia. On November 1, 2001, Robert Griffin, chairman of the Historic New

Bridge Landing Park Commission, reported the National Park Service had finally concluded an agreement with the NJ Department of Environmental Protection for the transfer of the \$1.1 million grant for the Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission. The 10-page document would be made available for the commission's review and approval.

At the meeting of the Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission on December 1, 2005, Acting Director Jose Fernandez, of the Division of Parks and Forestry, announced he had received a phone call about an hour earlier, confirming the acquisition of the BAPCO property. Chairman Robert Griffin announced that NJDEP Commissioner Bradley Campbell would hold a press conference at the site on December 6, 2005. Senator Loretta Weinberg, Assemblywoman Charlotte Vandervalk, Bergen County Executive Dennis McNerney, River Edge Mayor Margaret Watkins and HNBLPC Chairman R. Griffin planned to attend. Kevin Tremble, president of the Crossroads of the American Revolution Association, extended his congratulations and praised HNBL as the great ideal, the model for the rest of New Jersey's Revolutionary War sites to emulate. Thus, after almost 67 years of trying, the BAPCO property on Hackensack Avenue was acquired as an addition to the historic park. Funds for cleaning up the property were reportedly included in the purchase agreement.

On March 1, 2001, Adam Strobel, the County of Bergen's representative on the Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission, reported that Green Acres had contacted the County Planning Department to alert them that their efforts to acquire the former Pizza Town lot on Hackensack Avenue and Main Street, River Edge, from the Kaferon Trust had fallen short of the asking price and inquired whether or not the County might be interested in a "partnership," using funds from either from County Open Space Trust Fund or from some alternative source. This request was on the agenda for the County Open Space Fund meeting, scheduled for the following Monday. The County was, however, working on several parallel tracks. The County Planning Department, which administers the Bergen County's Open Space Trust, expressed interest in participating in the purchase, since they were concerned about improvements to the intersection needed to provide better access to the expanded historical facility planned for this crossroads. The County Planning Department was therefore engaged in finding out what road improvements would need to be done and how to acquire the necessary right-of way for a redesign of the intersection before Green Acres' acquisition of the remainder for open space. In this regard, the County was trying to be proactive and to deal with future needs for road reconfiguration in order to avoid future bureaucratic headache of trying to deal with land set aside through Green Acres or open-space funding.

On May 3, 2001, Adam Strobel reported Green Acres had contacted the County of Bergen and asked to work in partnership in the acquisition of land along Hackensack Avenue, part of the Pizza Town property. Available funding was identified within existing bond appropriations for such acquisitions and improvements within the River Street/Hackensack Avenue corridor. The County Executive appeared before the Board of Chosen Freeholders to request an appropriation for this purpose and the Board unanimously approved the same on April 18, 2001. The County intended to talk with

Green Acres to discuss the mechanics of how to move forward, including county plans for road widening. Capital improvement plans for road improvements covering any reconfiguration of the entrance to the historic park were included in the discussions and engineers were to make a preliminary presentation to the Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission at the appropriate time. Chairman Robert Griffin reported Green Acres closed on the Sutton & Lys house (.1 acre) on the tip of the traffic island on May 14, 2001, paying about \$150,000.

On June 7, 2001, Adam Strobel reported the County of Bergen made \$250,000 from existing bond appropriations available for purchase of necessary right-of-way on the Pizza Town property and was working in partnership with Green Acres. Chairman Griffin reported that Green Acres had reached a “verbal agreement” with the owner of the Pizza Town property and was preparing purchase contracts.

On August 9, 2001, the DEP reported that Green Acres signed contracts with the owners of Pizza Town property, agreeing to purchase for about \$800,000, and they would work with the County on surveys. Superintendent M. Pitchell had the utilities at the Sutton & Lys property disconnected, but needed to submit a demolition package. Ringwood State Park also installed new locks on the recently acquired Saw Shop property. The owner of the adjacent New Bridge General Store property had received but not yet returned an offering form to Green Acres.

On September 6, 2001, Chairman Griffin reported the owner of the Pizza Town property signed contracts and the closing was scheduled for around September 21, 2001. A demolition request was submitted for the Sutton & Lys property. The owner of the New Bridge General Store property signed and returned a Green Acres’ offering form, but said he would like to exclude the garage from the sale.

On October 4, 2001, Chairman Griffin learned the closing on the Pizza Town property was still imminent and asked DEP officials for details concerning the actual date and price. Negotiations for additional property acquisitions were progressing. Commissioner A. Strobel reported there was a continuing discussion among the county engineer, the public works department, and the River Edge borough engineer, regarding a reconfiguration of the intersection of Hackensack Avenue and Main Street, River Edge. As soon as plans progressed, the County would make a presentation to the Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission. An offer on the General Store property had been received in September and was being reviewed.

Robert Abbatomaro, executive director of the Bergen County Open Space Trust Fund, sent a letter, dated October 17, 2001, to Judith P. Yeany, chief of the Division on the Disposal of State-Owned Parcels, Green Acres, NJDEP, requesting a swap of land on the traffic island, bounded by Hackensack Avenue, Main Street, and the jug-handle access road, between the County of Bergen and the State of New Jersey, to match up with other County-owned right-of-way lands for intersection improvements adjacent to Historic New Bridge Landing.

On January 3, 2002, Farouk Ahmad presented a conceptual plan to the Historic New

Bridge Landing Park Commission for roadway improvements at the entrance to Historic New Bridge Landing, including a proposed road widening for addition of turning lanes at the intersection of Hackensack Avenue and Main Street, River Edge, and creation of a circular plaza with a battle monument. Also, he introduced the possibility of building a pedestrian tunnel or bridge across Hackensack Avenue to connect riverfront wetlands, north of Hackensack Avenue, to Historic New Bridge Landing. The County was reportedly making good progress with respect to the road widening, having completed the surveys and would embark upon the design only after getting input and approval from the Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission. A copy of the conceptual plan was left with the Commission so it could be used to refine thinking and to help visualize future possibilities.

At its meeting on March 25, 2002, the State House Commission, which reviews matters relating to state property, approved trading a strip of land in the Lys & Sutton property on the traffic triangle, needed for the widening of Hackensack Avenue, to the County in exchange for small plots of land adjacent to the State's holdings along the jug-handle, which would transfer ownership of the jug-handle to the state of New Jersey, when it was ultimately abandoned as part of the road widening. This trade was apparently never consummated by deeds of agreement.

Transfer of the administration and funding for state lands

Public Law 2009, CHAPTER 45, approved April 23, 2009, revised the jurisdiction, power and duties of the Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission and transferred administration of Historic New Bridge Landing State Park from the Division of Parks & Forestry to the Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission. The new enabling legislation defines the Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission as a body corporate and politic with corporate succession, created in the Department of Environmental Protection. The commission is an instrumentality exercising public and essential governmental functions. Exercise by the commission of the powers conferred by this act is deemed to be an essential governmental function of the state.

The Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission consists of nine members appointed and qualified as follows: (1) the Commissioner of Environmental Protection or the commissioner's designee; and (2) eight residents of the State, who shall be recommended by their respective governing body and appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, among whom shall be one representative each from the County of Bergen, the Blauvelt-Demarest Foundation, River Edge Borough, and New Milford Borough; and two representatives each from the Bergen County Historical Society and Teaneck Township.

Under terms of the act, the Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission shall administer the Historic New Bridge Landing State Park, including but not limited to the Steuben House; and "any State funds appropriated to the Department of Environmental Protection or the Division of Parks and Forestry in the department specifically for, or

related to the administration of, the Steuben House or the Historic New Bridge Landing State Park shall be reallocated to the Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission for the purposes of the administration of the Historic New Bridge Landing State Park.” The commission may also, at any time, request the Governor and the Legislature to appropriate funds for commission purposes. Lastly, the commission may apply for Green Acres and other grant funding for the specific purpose of acquiring or developing real estate related to the mission of the park.



The Steuben House and old river landing from the *Newark Sunday News*, 1959.

Resolution requesting Line-Item Appropriation

Whereas, under Public Law 2009, CHAPTER 45, approved April 23, 2009, “the commission shall administer the Historic New Bridge Landing State Park, including but not limited to the Steuben House; and (2) any State funds appropriated to the Department of Environmental Protection or the Division of Parks and Forestry in the department specifically for, or related to the administration of, the Steuben House or the Historic New Bridge Landing State Park shall be reallocated to the Historic New Bridge Landing State Park Commission for the purposes of the administration of the Historic New Bridge Landing State Park; and

Whereas, neither the Department of Environmental Protection nor the Division of Parks and Forestry has ever reallocated any State funds appropriated specifically for, or related to the administration of, the Steuben House or Historic New Bridge Landing State Park; and

Whereas, the Steuben House, acquired by the State of New Jersey in 1928, and Historic New Bridge Landing State Park are the only unfunded State Historic Site and State Park in New Jersey; and

Whereas, under Public Law 2009, CHAPTER 45, approved April 23, 2009, “The commission may, in addition, at any time request the Governor and the Legislature to appropriate funds for commission purposes.”

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Historic New Bridge Landing State Park Commission, acting in good faith, requests a line-item appropriation in the 2016 state budget of \$375,000 for operating expenses in order to take over full administration of the Steuben House and other state parklands at Historic New Bridge Landing State Park and to relieve the Department of Environmental Protection and the Division of Parks and Forestry of all its perceived responsibilities over state-owned buildings and lands under the Commission’s statutory jurisdiction. The Commission also requests direct access to capital funds for the care and development of the Steuben House and for all other capital projects on state-owned and operated properties at Historic New Bridge Landing State Park.

Resolution adopted on August 7, 2015.

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 2016.

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 2016.

Meeting schedule for 2017

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 5, 2017, February 2; March 2, April 6, May 4, June 1, July 6, August 3, September 7, October 5, November 2, December 7, 2017, and January 4, 2018.

Public Programs for the Year 2016

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 2014:

Sunday, January 3, 2016	Twelfth Night, BCHS member party, 2 to 5 p.m.
Wednesday, January 20, 2016	School of Interpretation, Kevin Wright on Introduction to Historic New Bridge Landing, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, January 23, 2016	Third NJ Regiment, Regimental drilling with fife and drums; sewing workshop.
Sunday, January 24, 2016	Brigit's Day and Candlemas, 1- 5 p.m. Candle making; Crepes; Kevin Wright on <i>18th-Century Country Taverns</i> (1:30 p.m.); Ardis Cavin on Celtic harp (3 p.m.)
Wednesday, February 17, 2016	School of Interpretation, 7:30 p.m., BCHS President James Smith on Tide Mills.
Thursday, February 18, 2016	BCHS Lecture Series, 7 p.m.
Sunday, February 21, 2016	A Country Ball upon the 283 rd Anniversary of Washington's Birthday, 1-5 p.m.
Wednesday, March 16, 2016	School of Interpretation, 7:30

pm. Andrea Jenner and Doreen Kruk on training for working the Out Kitchen.

Thursday, March 17, 2016 BCHS Lecture Series. Bob Vietrogoski, head of Special Collections at the George F. Smith Library, Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences, speaking on “How New Jersey’s Governors Created the State’s Medical Education System.”

Saturday, March 19, 2016 Under the Shad Moon, Chwame Gischuch, the Lenape New Year. Special guests: Chief Dwaine Perry and Floyd Little Sun Hicks of the Ramapough Lunaape Nation. Historian K. wright on “Tantaqua, the Last Sachem of the Hackensacks.”

Sunday, April 10, 2016 Authors’ Day, 1 – 5 p.m. Sixteen authors will have books available for purchase and signing in the Steuben House. At 2 p.m., author Jim Wright, writer of “The Bird Watcher” column in the *Record* will read from his children’s books. At 3:30 p.m., historical researcher Ree Hopper will lead a book discussion on the 2015 historical novel *Girl Waits with Gun* by Amy Stewart.

Saturday, April 16, 2016 *Bergen County Historic Preservation Workshop: Linking History and Community*, 9 am – 4 pm. Jonathan Kinney of SHPO speaks on *Preservation Tools in NJ*; historian Kevin Wright will give an illustrated talk on Bergen County’s domestic architecture (1640-1940); former Ridgewood librarian and historian Peggy Norris on researching the history of buildings; and a panel discussion on historic preservation issues in Bergen County. \$30 per person by pre-registration.

Wednesday, April 20, 2016 School of Interpretation, 7:30 pm. Historian K. Wright on the cultural landscapes and New Bridge.

Thursday, April 21, 2016 BCHS Lecture Series, 7 pm. Author Louis L. Picone. On “Birthplaces of the American Presidents.

Sunday, April 24, 2016 Earth Day Clean Up, 8 – 11 am. Removal of non-native plants and cleaning up debris on both sides of the Hackensack River at New Bridge.

Saturday, April 30, 2016 Battleground Tour of New Bridge, 11 am. Historians Todd Braisted and K. wright lead walking tour of Revolutionary War battleground at New Bridge.

Wednesday, May 18, 2016 School of Interpretation, 7:30 pm. Historian K. Wright gives second part of talk on the Basics of Historical Interpretation.

Sunday, May 22, 2016, 1- 5 pm. Pinkster Fest: A Colonial Celebration of Spring. Maypole dances at 1:30 and 3 pm. Pinkster cake, strawberries and cream, donuts and lemonade. Third NJ Regiment demonstrates military skills. Michelle Green gives spinning demonstration in Demarest House, Garden tours and children's games.
Saturday, June 4, 2016 King's Birthday, 1 – 5 pm.

Sunday, July 3, 2016 walking Tours of Historic New Bridge Landing.

Saturday, July 9, 2016 Vintage Baseball at New Bridge Landing. Double-header between the Flemington Neshanocks and the Brooklyn Eckfords. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Saturday, July 16, 2016 Calico Frolic, 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

August 13, 2016 *Countdown to America 250: The Protest and Repeal of the Stamp Act.*

Aug 17, 2016 Wed School of Interpretation, Topic: Pots, Pans, & Paintings: Interpreting the collection pieces, Steuben House. 7:30 PM.

Sept 15, Thurs BCHS Monthly Lecture: Jonathan Carriel on the 1765 Stamp Act Crisis. Takes place in the Steuben House. 7:30 PM

Sept 21, Wed School of Interpretation, 7:30 PM. Topic: The Drillmaster: The life and inuence of Baron von Steuben. Kevin Wright.

Sept 24, Sat Grounds Clean-up. Bring tools. 8 - 11 AM

Sept 25, Sun Baronfest, A Celebration of Major-General Baron von Steuben at his Jersey Estate, Historic New Bridge Landing, 1 - 5 PM. Featuring Long Hill String Band, Alementary Craft Beer in Beer Garden/18th c. tavern, tour historic site. Mott's Artillery/cannon/troops. Map exhibit. \$15 ad, \$10 BCHS members, 1-16 yr free. Beer/food - additional.

Sept 29, Thurs Naturalization Ceremony at 10:30 AM

Oct 15, Sat Bergen County History Fair & The Greater Riverdell Chamber, Historic New Bridge Landing, 1 - 5 PM. Featuring music, food trucks, craft beer at 18th c. Tavern, tour historic homes. Admission. Beer/food - additional.

Oct 19, Wed School of Interpretation, Topic: The Devil's in the Details: The logistics of running events at HNBL. 7:30 PM.

Oct 20, Thurs BCHS Monthly Lecture: Kevin Wright, Bergen

County Architecture, Part 1, illustrated talk – Steuben House. 7:30 PM

Oct 30, Sun Harvest Homecoming. Illustrated talk on the Lutheran Church site at New Bridge and the French Burial Ground at 1:30 pm, Steuben House. Tombstone photo & stone rubbing exhibit & new child activity / take-away. Tours. Refreshments; cider donuts+. 1 - 4:30 PM

Nov 6, Sun Mitzvah Day, 10 AM - 12 Noon. Grounds clean-up.

Nov 16, Wed School of Interpretation, Historian Todd Braisted on New Bridge in the American Revolution. 7:30 PM.

Nov 17, Thurs BCHS Monthly Lecture: Kevin Wright, Bergen County Architecture Part 2, illustrated talk – Steuben House given by Deborah Powell. 7:30 PM

Nov 19 & 20 The 240th Anniversary of the British Invasion & American Retreat from Ft. Lee to New Bridge, The Bridge that Saved a Nation. Saturday: 7 PM Reading of the American Crisis at the Bridge, followed by Lecture at 7:30. Sunday: 10 AM – 3 PM. Skirmish at the Bridge, Lecture; time TBA. Children's drills and other military, 18th century activities throughout the site. Scavenger hunt.

Dec 4, Sun Sinter Klaas Day Open House. 1 - 4 PM.

Dec 10, Sat Decorating Historic New Bridge Landing for winter holidays, 10 AM - 4 PM. Concert tickets available for purchase.

Dec 17 & 18 The 33rd Anniversary of Colonial Christmas Concerts Linda Russell & Co. in the Steuben House, two shows per evening, tavern fare in Campbell-Christie House. By reservation

Minutes of the Meetings of the Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission for January 2016-December 2016

Meeting of the Historic New Bridge Landing State Park Commission

January 7, 2016

I. Open Public Meetings Act Statement

Secretary K. Wright read the Open Public Meetings Act statement and Chairman J. Smith opened the meeting at 7:03 PM.

II. Attendance

J. Smith; A. Strobel; L. Bauer; W. J. Oddie; E. Pain; D. Powell; Thea Sirocchi-Hurley.

Excused: J. Bellis Sr; M. Donohue.

Also, K. Wright; J. Heffernan; John G. Trontis, Assistant Director, Division of Parks & Forestry, DEP; Josh Osowski, Northern Regional Superintendent.

III. Review of Minutes

Review of the Minutes of the Meeting of December 3, 2015. Motion to approve: A. Strobel; second, D. Powell. **Motion carried.** Thea Sirocchi-Hurley, W. J. Oddie, abstained.

Secretary K. Wright reported that, pursuant to our responsibilities under Public Law 2009, chapter 45, the Historic New Bridge Landing State Park Commission had submitted its annual report for 2015 to the Governor and Legislature before December 31, 2015. He thanked Assemblyman Robert Auth for sending a copy of the report to Governor Chris Christie on our behalf.

IV. Calendar

Sunday, January 3, 2016 Twelfth Night,	BCHS member party, 2 to 5 p.m.
Wednesday, January 20, 2016	School of Interpretation, Kevin Wright on Introduction to Historic New Bridge Landing, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, January 23, 2016	Third NJ Regiment, Regimental drilling with fife and drums; sewing workshop.
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Wednesday, February 17, 2016	School of Interpretation, 7:30 p.m., BCHS President James Smith on Tide Mills.
Thursday, February 18, 2016	BCHS Lecture Series, 7 p.m.
Sunday, February 21, 2016	A Country Ball upon the 283 rd Anniversary of Washington's Birthday, 1-5 p.m.

V. Chairman's Report

Good evening everyone and thank you for attending tonight's meeting. I hope you had a wonderful holiday season and I look forward to the New Year. One of the ideas that was brought up at the last meeting was ways to improve the visitor experience for 2016. There are different ways that each entity can do this through the Commission.

The New Milford entrance to the park is underwhelming and does not give the pathway the justice that it deserves. We have been contacted by an Eagle Scout, who wishes to restore both approaches to the bridge to their early 20th century appearance, with the restoration of the wooden rails that still exist to the replacing of the stockade fence, removal of underbrush and addition of wooden rails at the approach. When his plan is finished, he will approach the Commission for approval. It would be advantageous if New Milford could provide the name and cost of sign post banners so we can delve into that further and brand the east side better. Again, this has been discussed, but these banners could say, "Historic New Bridge Landing," and sponsors could pay the cost until the Commission is funded.

With Teaneck, another Earth Day clean, in conjunction with the Teaneck DPW should also be put into the works to help with Brett Park. I also want to thank the Teaneck Representatives for their assistance in the National Park Service Battle Field Grant that we will discuss later. This will go a long way, if approved, to telling the whole story of Historic New Bridge Landing, the site of at least 11 military engagements throughout the war, as well as an important economic engine in early Bergen County.

The Society will continue its efforts at New Bridge, along with discussing ways it can contribute to reducing sign pollution and working with all parties involved. Again, this can be accomplished by removing the brown signs and replacing them with interpretative panels that are lower and more visually appealing. The Society also plans to plant trees along Main St. in the vicinity of the Christie House this spring to again, reduce 21st century intrusions, provide a habitat for native species and improve the overall appearance of this area of River Edge. We definitely encourage River Edge to think of ways it can assist in this effort with our neighbors and beautification.

The County should continue its efforts investigating and working with all partners for solutions on the drainage issue, which has negatively impacted the Bergen County Historical Society property as well as State lands. I think we can continue to address the signage that exists around Historic New Bridge Landing and also come up with a plan that can make all parties happy.

Lastly, in 2011, a set of resolutions were passed by this Commission concerning the state of the Steuben House and property that I shall briefly read those items that are unresolved and can be worked on in the coming year.

Resolved, the Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission, acting in good faith, authorizes the DEP's Office of Resource Development and the State Park Service to act as agents of the Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission to complete needed repairs to the state-owned Steuben House (as described in the attached list) in a timely manner on condition that the Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission approve plans for all such repairs, restoration and maintenance prior to the commencement of work. The Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission further authorizes all work or repairs that can be undertaken in winter weather to be executed as soon as possible under the conditions stipulated and that other exterior repairs or maintenance begin in the spring. Motion, M. Donohue; second, D. Powell. Motion carried. J. G. Trontis, abstained. Attached List of Repairs and Restoration at Steuben House and State Owned Lands at Historic New Bridge Landing, attached to the resolution of **November 3, 2011**.

1. Replace furnace and repair heating system. (Completed)
2. Repair flooring on main floor and refinish. (replaced, not finished)
3. Check and update all fire extinguishers throughout the Steuben House. (have not heard)
4. Replace at least four missing shutter dogs to secure shutters (order extra to have on hand). Completed by the Bergen County Historical Society
5. Replace shutter bolts (at least four are damaged; order extras). Completed by the Bergen County Historical Society

6. Repair and repaint plaster walls in Dwelling Room and rear rooms, correcting defects that have either existed for years or resulted from flooding. (Not done)
 7. Repair broken windowpanes (At least two on first floor, three or four on rear elevation) (Not done)
 8. Finish paving and striping parking lot on Pizza Town property. Place sign identifying parking for HNBL (Not done)
 9. Restore portion of roadway (formerly Main Street) where washed out in Hurricane Irene. (Resolved?)
 10. Have snow removal contract include removal by hand shoveling or snow blower any ice and snow on BAPCO pathway, and all walks and pathways on grounds of Steuben House as well as roundabout. (Resolved)
 11. Provide hand-towel dispenser and supply of hand towels for bathroom. (Resolved)
 12. Level grade of roundabout, removing drainage swale, and place curbing to demark roadway from island and lawn areas. (Not done)
 13. New brick walkway has brick too widely spaced with recessed joints, making walking difficult. Repair or replace as required. (Not done)
 14. Repair north porch light and replace handicapped ramp at north parlor door (which washed away in flood). (Completed)
 15. Repair north shutter on parlor (broken for years and nailed shut). (Resolved)
 16. Emplace bollards where saw horses currently block roadway. (Completed)
 17. Cut meadow on BAPCO property. (Completed)
 18. Restore and maintain landscaping on Sutton & Lys property. (Trees are toppled over, property ungraded).
 19. Eliminate poison ivy vines from black locust along walkway and ash tree by bridge. (Completed)
 20. **Requires Immediate Action** Repair porch columns and decking. (Not done)
 21. **Requires Immediate Action** Repair pointing as required around Steuben House. (Currently being worked on)
 22. Remove weeds from pathway on former BAPCO property and maintain. (Not completed)
 23. Maintain and replace bulbs on all lighting fixtures, interior and exterior, on the Steuben House. (Exterior Completed)
 24. Repair track lighting in garret (broken connection means only one segment of track lighting works)
 25. Repair furnace room Light (remains on)
 26. Remove Pergo flooring and raised floor on second floor in rear; install reproduction doors in openings with appropriate period hinges and box locks, and repair and refinish original floorboards on second floor as required. (Not done)
 27. Purchase reproduction box locks for front doors and doors on second floor.
 28. Paint rear rooms on first and second floors. (Not done)
 29. Find key or remove lock from north door in basement. (Not done)
 30. Move black walnut sapling into place where ancient black walnut was removed. (Not done)
 31. Remove pokeweed and other overgrowth from state-owned portion of river landing. (Removal completed by Bergen County Historical Society, state has mowed/maintained to control)
 32. Remove florescent lighting on second floor (rear rooms) and replace with appropriate period lighting fixtures. (Not done)
 33. Repair exterior rear staircase. (Not done)
- Again, every partner plays a valuable role when it comes to this Commission, created to coordinate all activities that occur at Historic New Bridge Landing through the stakeholders. I think it is important for us again, to have goals to strive for, be successful and continue to show that the Commission functions in a positive constructive manner with proven results. Thank you.

VI. Continuing Business

A. Teaneck

L. Bauer reported the Teaneck Chamber of Commerce will hold its first meeting of 2016 at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at Five Star Premier Residence in

Teaneck and Historic New Bridge Landing and heritage tourism are on the agenda. Chairman J. Smith thanked L. Bauer and W. J Oddie for their assistance in getting a letter of support from Teaneck Township Manager William Broughton dated January 6, 2016, for the National Park Service Battlefield Protection grant.

B. New Milford

The commission welcomed New Milford's new representative Thea Sirocchi-Hurley, who was just elected to the New Milford Council. Chairman J. Smith noted New Milford has always been an important contributing member to our efforts, Commissioner T. Sirocchi-Hurley noted she had chaired New Milford's Beautification Committee when it was founded three years ago and she would like to get the committee involved in sprucing up the New Milford approach to the old swing-bridge on Old New Bridge Road.

C. River Edge

Secretary K. Wright reported vice-chairwoman Mary Donohue has returned home and had hoped to attend this evenings meeting, but decided to continue her recuperation from a broken ankle before attempting to come out so soon. Everyone wished her a full and speedy recovery.

Former mayor Sandy Moscaritolo reported the Historic Tavern act, allowing a municipality to issue a limited liquor license to any building that was a tavern before Prohibition, provided it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, has been released from an Assembly committee, but requires a state senate sponsor.

Former mayor Moscaritolo also offered to set up a meeting with the organizer of the River Edge Farmers Market, if we decided we'd like to have it here once a week.

He also reported on a conference all with PSE&G regarding the decommissioned substation on Main Street, saying he thought a lease offer was just preliminary and that in the long term the land should be deeded to the park as it was zoned for public use and could not be used for a private purpose, which is one thing in favor of the park. He concluded by saying he would like to see the park prosper, as it could be an economic engine for the town.

D. County of Bergen

Commissioner A. Strobel updated two old items and two newer items of interest. He reported on his continuing conversations with County drainage engineer Christos Kavvadas, hoping they'd be able to get out to the site by March, after meeting first with County engineer Joe Femia and further developing options and cost estimates. Secondly, in regards to the utilities in the Campbell-Christie House, he has had correspondence with County parks director Jim Koch and discussed the need to arrange a meeting.

Commissioner A. Strobel also raised a new item, noting the structural repairs to the Campbell-Christie House undertaken in 2014, when the County of Bergen retained the professional services of Kurt Leasure of HMR, Architects, to design a scope of work, specifications and to supervise the construction contractor. This work was paid for through capitol bonds from 2000, principally for the reconstruction of a kitchen wing. As \$89,000 had been expended, a balance of \$110,000 remains. This presents an opportunity for the commission to discuss how to approach that balance and to discuss future items that might be done for the Campbell-Christie House. He noted from his correspondence with County parks director Jim Koch that the cost of replacing or upgrading mechanical systems might be most readily accomplished with a dedicated and approved source of funding.

Commissioner A. Strobel lastly noted that last year, after the Bergen 350 fundraiser event, we had discussed possible funding for siting a museum building. He believes he has been successful in inserting such funding in the budget. He noted we have previously had general discussions about continuing the professional service of Kurt

Leasure, of HMR, Architects, to look into pre-planning issues and siting of a museum building.

E. DEP – Steuben House

Commissioner E. Pain, the DEP Commissioner's alternate designee, reported as follows:

Masonry Project

To be provided at the February meeting

Electric Meter

To be provided at the February meeting

In regards to the first two items, state parks assistant director John J. Trontis added that when former northern regional superintendent S. Ellis retired, there was a communication gap and the orders for the masonry and electrical projects were apparently lost. He will convene a conference call with chairman J. Smith and secretary K. Wright to put together the information we have and resolve the issue.

Gate

At the December meeting a question was raised as to whether the gate pin was anchored or if it could be easily be removed. After the meeting the pin was checked and it was installed in such a manner that it cannot be removed without damaging the gate.

Fencing

Wayside Fencing has agreed to work with the state of New Jersey. There is a two-part process for getting a vendor approved to do business with the state of New Jersey. Part one has been completed. Once the remaining paperwork is completed, Ringwood State Park carpenter will procure the fencing that is required to complete the installation of the split-rail fence in the previously agreed upon location.

Parking Lot Striping

Ringwood State Park maintenance is in the process of soliciting quotes for the striping of the former Pizza Town lot. Once the required quotations have been received they will be presented to the Commission for review. Provided that funding is available, this project will be completed in the spring of 2016.

State parks assistant director John J. Trontis and Northern Regional superintendent Josh Osowski agreed this is a priority and will do their best to find funding.

Commissioner D. Powell noted the Bergen County Historical Society has borne the expense of employing parking attendants at major events. Commissioner A. Strobel thought it important to distinguish between ordered parking through striped parking spaces and directional parking for special events to maximize the lot's capacity. Secretary K. Wright also noted directional parking by bonded professionals was also an important part of the visitor experience as it was welcoming and provided an opportunity for visitors to be informed as to what was going on and where they might go for specific features of an event.

Snow removal

Superintendent E. Pain was able to make contact with T. J. Keegan, the snow removal contractor, who agreed to clear a path to the bridge at no extra cost. They discussed specific expectations as to the methods to be employed in hand shoveling walkways to the Steuben House and other items of concern.

Commissioner D. Powell raised the concern about piling snow so as to block access to crosswalks, which we have had to clear by shoveling in the past. She thought this had been corrected last winter, but emphasized the important of letting visitors safely cross streets without climbing over mounds of snow.

Heat Checks

Ringwood State Park Maintenance staff reports to the Steuben House on extremely cold days to verify the heat is working properly. Commissioner E. Pain also noted a heat sensor has been installed to alert Ringwood State Park staff if the temperature falls below 50°. He asked anyone who discovered a loss of heat to call him.

Projects List

Chairman J. Smith went over remaining items on the 2011 project list in his report and he offered to send out the list before the next meeting for further review.

General Maintenance

Ringwood State Park employees continue to respond to the Steuben House to perform general cleaning of the building on a monthly basis or more frequently as scheduled events require.

F. Blauvelt-Demarest Foundation

G. Bergen County Historical Society

Starting out a new year, commissioner D. Powell reported we have Brigit's Day and Candlemas event coming up on January 24. After that, our next big event is Washington's Birthday on February 21, 2016. As museum committee chairwoman, she has arranged to bring back sculptor Albert Jaegers' plaster model for the Steuben Monument, commissioned in 1906, from the workshop of conservator Gary McGowan, who stabilized and repaired the piece after it suffered flood damage in Hurricane Sandy. It will stand on a wooden pedestal made by volunteer Manfred Wegner in the parlor of the Steuben House. She hopes to invite special guests to speak at its unveiling at the Washington's Birthday event.

VII. New Business

A. Battlefield Protection Grant

Resolved, the Historic New Bridge Landing State Park Commission, acting in good faith, endorses the Bergen County Historical Society's application for a Battlefield Protection grant from the National Park Service to fund the use of ground penetrating radar to discover evidences of Revolutionary War structures and activities at Historic New Bridge Landing as it is an investigative technology that is capable of identifying areas of potential archaeological interest without disturbance or excavation. Areas of interest include Brett Park, especially the former dwelling, river landing and tide mill of Lt. Col. Abraham Van Buskirk, as well as evidence of an eighteenth-century commercial bakery; evidence of eighteenth-century dwellings, military activity, including fortifications and encampments on the upper level of Brett Park; evidence of an "Indian castle" or fort; and a search around the Steuben House for evidence of original outbuildings, military and commercial activity. The Historic New Bridge Landing State Park Commission determines the project will not adversely affect historic resources.

Motion, D. Powell; second, A. Strobel. **Motion carried.**

Chairman J. Smith noted Teaneck Township Manager William Broughton, had already provided a letter of support for the grant application.

B. Storm drainage

To keep everyone informed of progress on investigating and repairing the storm drainage system, Secretary K. Wright reported through the agenda that the officers and trustees of the Bergen County Historical Society passed the following resolution at their meeting on December 10, 2015:

Resolved, that the officers and trustees of the Bergen County Historical Society authorize the County of Bergen to excavate above the storm-drainage conduit within the ten-foot easement, conveyed to the County of Bergen by the Bergen County Historical Society in 1955, between the outlet of the conduit or outfall pipe on the river landing at the Hackensack River on the Society's lands and the wooden fence bordering the vacated portion of Main Street for the purpose of investigating the extent of corrosion of the conduit in order to make repairs and maintenance and also to clear the drainage swale or drainage ditch of vegetation where the conduit or

outfall pipe enters said drainage ditch between the Demarest and Campbell-Christie Houses and to make such repairs on this outlet as are necessary for its proper operation, on the conditions that (a) the County of Bergen is responsible for obtaining any and all applicable permits required for such work; (b) that pathways, driveways and roads are not blocked; (c) that the County of Bergen will restore any disturbances to the Society's lands to the same or better condition than before the work started; (d) that there is no interference with the lessee who sells Christmas trees on the Society's land; (e) that the work is confined to the ten-foot easement and does not disturb ground not previously disturbed by the installation and maintenance of the conduit, especially on the historic river landing, so as to protect potential subsurface prehistoric and historic features and artifacts; and (f) that any work on investigating, maintaining or repairing said storm-drainage system on state lands, where it crosses between the Bergen County Historical Society's lands over the former parking lot south of the Steuben House and the vacated portion of Main Street requires authorization from the Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission.

VIII. Public Comment

NJDEP Assistant Director of Parks & Forestry John J. Trontis noted he investigated policies governing the use of "drones" on public lands and found no relevant regulations or guidance documents. He therefore initiated a policy initiative to regulate the use of unmanned aerial vehicles on state lands. He offered to share a copy of this policy, which restricts the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) in state parks, except by emergency first-responders and by special-use permit from the Assistant Director. He suggested the commission and Bergen County Historical Society might want to initiate a similar policy. He also again noted Director Mark Texel's correspondence concerning a \$100,000 grant, indicating that the grant cycle does not follow the calendar year, but the budget year. Chairman J. Smith noted he had responded through an email to the Director's office about specifics.

Secretary K. Wright noted the original offer of this grant several years ago specifically cited a clause in the 2009 law, which allows the Historic New Bridge Landing State Park Commission "To apply to the Department of Environmental Protection for grants from the Green Acres or historic preservation bond programs or other appropriate funding sources, for the purpose of acquisitions pursuant to subsection f of this section or for the purposes of development, preservation, or maintenance **of those acquired properties....**" He further noted that if you look up subsection f, it reads: "f. To acquire in the name of the commission, hold and dispose of real and personal property in the exercise of its powers and the performance of its duties under this act...." So if you put the two together, then it means the commission may apply to the Department of Environmental Protection for grants from the Green Acres or historic preservation bond programs or other appropriate funding sources, for the purpose of acquiring real and personal property in the commission's own name or for the purposes of developing, preserving, or maintaining **those acquired properties....**" He noted the original offer simply inserted the word "operational" in parentheses after the word "development." So even if you were to really stretch the interpretation and accept that "development" could include some sort of "operational" funding, then it would still be restricted to real or personal property acquired in the commission's own name. Lastly, he noted the enabling legislation only specifies only two other funding mechanisms, specifically, that "**any State funds** appropriated to the Department of Environmental Protection or the Division of Parks and Forestry in the department specifically for, or related to the administration of, the Steuben House or the Historic New Bridge Landing State Park shall be reallocated to the Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission for the purposes of the administration of the Historic New Bridge Landing State Park," and, secondly, "The commission may, in addition, at any time request the Governor and the Legislature to appropriate funds for commission purposes." Assistant Director of Parks & Forestry John J. Trontis suggested using the grant to acquire the decommissioned PSE&G substation property might be the only appropriate use. Secretary K. Wright concurred that this might be the best of a very limited range of possibilities, especially since this was the last piece of the Revolutionary war battleground

that we might be able to add to the historic park and one of especial significance as it relates to the former tide mill, the original historic feature of the site.

IX. Adjournment

Chairman J. Smith adjourned the meeting at 8:44 p.m.

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 February 4, 2016. Future meetings are scheduled for March 3, April 7, May 5, June 2, July 7, August 4, September 1, October 6, November 3, December 1, 2016, and January 5, 2017.

- The February 4th, 2016 Meeting was cancelled, therefore there are no minutes.

-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 April 7, 2016. The meeting agenda is attached.

Meeting of the Historic New Bridge Landing State Park Commission

March 3, 2016

I. Open Public Meetings Act Statement

Secretary K. Wright read the Open Public Meetings Act statement and Chairman J. Smith opened the meeting at 7:23 PM.

II. Attendance

J. Smith; A. Strobel; L. Bauer; J Osowski; D. Powell; Thea Sirocchi-Hurley.

Excused: J. Bellis Sr; M. Donohue; W. J. Oddie.

Also, K. Wright, secretary (alternate for Blauvelt-Demarest Foundation)

III. Review of Minutes

Review of the Minutes of the Meeting of January 7, 2016. Motion to approve: D. Powell; second, L. Bauer. **Motion carried.**

IV. Calendar

Wednesday, March 16,
2016 School
of Interpretation, 7:30 pm. Andrea
Jenner and Doreen Kruk on
training for working the Out
Kitchen.

Thursday, March 17,
2016 BCHS
Lecture Series. Bob Vietrogoski,
head of Special Collections at the
George F. Smith Library,
Rutgers Biomedical and Health
Sciences, speaking on "How New
Jersey's Governors Created the
State's Medical Education
System."

Saturday, March 19,
2016

Under the Shad Moon,
Chwame Gischuch, the Lenape
New Year. Special guests: Chief
Dwayne Perry and Floyd Little Sun
Hicks of the Ramapough Lunaape
Nation. Historian K. Wright on
"Tantaqua, the Last Sachem of
the Hackensacks."

Sunday, April 10, 2016 Authors' Day, 1 – 5 p.m. Sixteen authors
will have books available for purchase and signing in the Steuben House. At 2 p.m.,
author Jim Wright, writer of "The Bird Watcher" column in the *Record* will read from his
children's books. At 3:30 p.m., historical researcher Ree Hopper will lead a book
discussion on the 2015 historical novel *Girl Waits with Gun* by Amy Stewart.

Saturday, April 16, 2016 *Bergen County Historic Preservation
Workshop: Linking History and Community, 9 am – 4 pm.* Jonathan Kinney of SHPO
speaks on *Preservation Tools in NJ*; historian Kevin Wright will give an illustrated talk on
Bergen County's domestic architecture (1640-1940); former Ridgewood librarian and
historian Peggy Norris on researching the history of buildings; and a panel discussion on
historic preservation issues in Bergen County. \$30 per person by pre-registration.

Wednesday, April 20, 2016 School of Interpretation, 7:30
pm. Historian K. Wright on the cultural landscapes and New Bridge.

Thursday, April 21, 2016 BCHS Lecture Series, 7 pm. Author
Louis L. Picone. On "Birthplaces of the American Presidents."

Sunday, April 24, 2016 Earth Day Clean Up, 8 – 11 am.
Removal of non-native plants and cleaning up debris on both sides of the Hackensack
River at New Bridge.

Saturday, April 30, 2016 Battleground Tour of New Bridge, 11 am.
Historians Todd Braisted and K. Wright lead walking tour of Revolutionary War
battleground at New Bridge.

Wednesday, May 18,
2016 School
of Interpretation, 7:30
pm. Historian K. Wright gives
second part of talk on the Basics
of Historical Interpretation.

Sunday, May 22, 2016, 1- 5 pm. Pinkster Fest: A Colonial Celebration of
Spring. Maypole dances at 1:30 and 3 pm. Pinkster cake, strawberries and cream, donuts
and lemonade. Third NJ Regiment demonstrates military skills. Michelle Green gives
spinning demonstration in Demarest House, Garden tours and children's games.

Saturday, June 4,
2016 Ki
ng's Birthday, 1 – 5 pm.

V. Chairman's Report

I want to welcome everyone today for our March meeting. While we were unable to meet
in February, the site continued to be a hive of activity due to the programming put on by
the Bergen County Historical Society. February also saw not only Washington's Birthday
celebration, but the return of the restored Steuben plaster model to the house bearing his
name. The statue could quite possibly serve as the model for a battleground monument
that is written in the Historic New Bridge Landing Park Master Plan. But also it is a
symbol not only of the deep ties the Bergen County Historical Society has with the State
of NJ and the property, but also as a symbol of rebirth and moving forward. Again, thank
you for your involvement and look forward to the upcoming set of events.

VI. Continuing Business

A. Teaneck

Commissioner L. Bauer suggested making a presentation to the Township Council to build support and to work on proposals for what can and should be done to enhance heritage tourism on the east side of the river. He suggested inviting interested parties, including representatives of the Teaneck Chamber of Commerce, either to an event or to a special presentation to encourage and guide their support for heritage tourism. He is also still trying to get parties involved in the April 23rd cleanup. Several groups are already committed to projects for Earth Day. He will bring the matter up at the Teaneck Chamber of Commerce meeting to explore tie in with community service work. Chairman J. Smith thought it would be a good idea to get them down to the site for an event. Commissioner L. Bauer also stated the next Chamber newsletter would feature "history." They have an email list of 680 recipients.

Commissioner L. Bauer raised the issue of the proposed strip-mall development for the former Teaneck Tractor property on New Bridge Road and suggested we might like to have some input. Secretary K. Wright noted that Nicholas B. Demarest erected the extant building in 1890 as a carriage repository with blacksmithy, paint shop, harness shop and trimming department. Until the building was covered with modern siding some years ago, you could still read the name "Demarest" painted on its side wall, facing the road. The small building immediately to the east was erected as a firehouse in 1895 for the *Defender No. 1 Fire Company* of New Bridge. It was generally perceived that the old carriage repository was probably too far gone to be salvaged at this point.

Chairman J. Smith noted we have 90 spruce saplings to give away at the cleanup. We will also have a dumpster available at 9 am on April 23rd. Participants should meet in front of the Steuben House.

B. New Milford

Thea Sirocchi-Hurley reported nothing new has developed since our last meeting. Chairman J. Smith reported on an Eagle Scout project to restore the 1950's wooden guard rails on the New Milford side of the Bridge, replacing the current stockade fence which hampers the view.

C. River Edge

Secretary K. Wright reported Vice-chairwoman Mary Donohue is recuperating from her surgery and anticipated knee replacement. Everyone wished her a full and speedy recovery.

D. County of Bergen

Commissioner A. Strobel updated two ongoing items. He reported on substantial progress on the drainage issue, working with County drainage engineer Christos Kavvadas. There is a scheduled meeting with County Engineer Joe Femia next week to develop a plan of action. He noted there are two outfall pipes, once a 24-inch corrugated metal pipe at the river and a 30-inch reinforced concrete pipe that drains into the drainage ditch between the Demarest and Campbell-Christie Houses. The meeting will consider whether the work requires a design engineer firm or can be done in house. The Mosquito Control Commission did cleaning of the pipes.

The other item concerns the mechanicals in the Campbell-Christie House: he discussed the issue with Brian Heinzmann and the approach would be to replace the old units, if under \$17,500, which is the bidding threshold, or to get several verbal quotes and bids, if it is above that threshold. He will keep us informed of the progress. Brian Heinzmann asked how the units were currently performing?

Secretary K. Wright indicated that the air conditioning on the first floor has not been working for two or three years. Commissioner D. Powell reported the upstairs air conditioning has only worked irregularly over the past year. Secretary K. Wright asked if the County would consider replacing the current chain-link fence around the air-conditioning condensers with a picket fence resembling the one in the tavern yard of the Campbell-Christie House to improve the aesthetics.

E. DEP – Steuben House

Northern Regional Superintendent Josh Osowski reported on behalf of Superintendent Eric Pain, who is away on vacation, as follows:

Masonry Project: An onsite meeting was held with HNBLSP Chairman J. Smith, Northern Regional Superintendent J. Osowski and Ringwood state Park

Superintendent E. Pain on 2/15/16 to discuss the repointing project. Since that time, the project has been put out to bid. A contractor will be selected by the end of March.

Electric Meter: This project was also discussed at the onsite meeting of 2/15/16 and additional information is required concerning the exact location the panel is to be moved. Secretary K. Wright suggested the recess or closet in the bedroom directly above its present location, provided it could be concealed properly. Commissioner D. Powell expressed concern for further intrusions in the historic fabric of the building. Secretary K. Wright also noted that there are two additional electric panels, one located in the original caretaker's kitchen, next to the root cellar, and another in the northwest basement room (former kitchen), adjacent to the root cellar and original bathroom. These must be elevated at least 49 inches above the basement floor level to avoid the highest recorded flood levels.

Commissioner D. Powell asked where the outside electric meter is going to go, since it has been a long-standing eyesore. Previously it was suggested to install an interior meter that can be read electronically from outside.

Fencing: Wayside Fencing has completed the paperwork process that is required to do business with the State of New Jersey. Ringwood State Park maintenance is continuing to work with wayside Fencing to determine the materials needed and to obtain an estimate. Once completed, Ringwood State Park carpenter will procure the fencing that is required to complete the installation of the split-rail fence in the previously agreed upon locations. Materials have already been purchased and installation will begin once suitable weather is upon us. Secretary K. Wright noted that the fencing installation had already begun.

Parking Lot Striping: Ringwood State Park maintenance is in the process of soliciting quotes for the striping of the former Pizza Town lot. Additionally, we are seeking guidance from the Borough of River Edge concerning any ordinances that apply concerning the orientation and layout of the parking spaces. Repeated calls to the River Edge Borough Office have not been returned concerning the ordinance for parking space orientations required with the borough. Secretary K. Wright suggested asking River Edge Commissioner M. Donohue for assistance.

Snow removal: Conversations with the contractor have led me to believe they are completing the services requested. While onsite during storm Jonas, I did notice a disabled vehicle in the Pizza Town Lot and many of the areas remained unplowed. This, however, was early on in the storm. We have been receiving bills as services have been performed. Have there been any concerns regarding the level of service from TJK? Commissioner D. Powell noted that it seemed from tire marks that a vehicle was used to plow the brick walkway leading to the Steuben House.

Storm Jonas/ Additional River Watch Shifts: Ringwood State Park staff maintained a presence onsite at the Steuben House during high tide cycles on Friday, January 22nd and Saturday, January 23rd. Tidal surges did not impact the house or even put any water in the basement. RSP staff performed high tide watch on the following days: 2/9 cycles, 2/16 evening cycle, 2/17 am cycle, 2/25 midnight. Some water entered the basement, however, no water entered the first floor.

Heat Checks: Heat checks continue to take place as needed on colder than average days. Previous visits have shown that the heating system is working effectively and maintaining even heat throughout the building. Heat checks are ongoing.

Water Solenoid in Basement: The water solenoid located in the basement of the Steuben House malfunctioned, causing interruption in water to the bathroom of the Steuben House. Request for repairs initiated and waiting on parts. Repair scheduled to be made Wednesday, March 2, 2016.

Projects List: further discussion required. Are the projects currently listed in priority order? Updates: 3 fire extinguishers completed January 2016; 7 broken windows repaired February 2016; 24 track lighting repaired to the extent possible. Seven out of ten lights work. New fixtures required. RSP requests suggestions for replacement fixture. Secretary K. Wright noted that the garret is no longer open to the public and the lighting serves to illuminate collections storage area, so any suitable fixtures should be okay.

Commissioner D. Powell expressed concern for the replacement of period glass panes, which should be replaced with either suitable antique glass or appropriate

reproduction glass panes. Secretary K. Wright noted that many of the windows on the first floor are period cylinder glass. The commission recommends a survey of the surviving antique glass panes. Secretary K. Wright noted the deteriorated condition of the 18th-century sashes in the garret bedroom, one of which is being held closed with a stone bowl at present, because the latch is broken. He also suggested replacing the plexiglass panes in these sashes, installed in 1986 and now badly fogged by scratches, with historically appropriate glass panes.

General Maintenance: Ringwood State Park employees continue to respond to the Steuben House to perform general cleaning of the building on a monthly basis or more frequently as scheduled events require.

Secretary K. Wright noted the mortar joints on the extension of the brick walkway to the Steuben House continues to erode, creating a tripping hazard.

F. Blauvelt-Demarest Foundation

G. Bergen County Historical Society

Commissioner D. Powell reported we have a busy month approaching with Authors' day on April 10th, followed by the Bergen County Historic Preservation Workshop:

Linking History and Community, on the following Saturday, April 16th. Keynote speaker Jonathan Kinney, of the NJ State Historic Preservation Office will talk on *Preservation Tools in NJ* at 9:30 am, at followed by Kevin Wright's illustrated talk on Bergen County's domestic architecture (1640-1940). Participants may pre-select their choice of box lunches from Au Bon Pain in Riverside Square and we will open the three historic homes from noon to 1 p.m. The afternoon sessions will feature former Ridgewood librarian and historian Peggy Norris on researching the history of buildings and a panel discussion on historic preservation issues in Bergen County. Attendees will receive a certificate for continuing education, required for historic preservation commissioners to maintain their community's CLG status.

The ceremonial unveiling of the Steuben statue, repaired with FEMA funding after Hurricane Sandy, preceding our traditional country ball on the anniversary of Washington's Birthday, was a resounding success. Chairman J. Smith and myself made opening remarks. We appreciated the attendance of Assemblyman Gordon Johnson, who presented a resolution from the legislature, County Clerk John Hogan, Cynthia forester from the Division of Cultural & Historic Affairs, who presented certificates of commendation from the County Executive and Freeholders, Gary McGowan of CPR, Inc., who did the repair, and Keith Cheney from the Office of Emergency Management. It was a rare opportunity to talk about the Society's artifact collections, which so greatly expand the interpretation of the site. The repair of the statue, which now stands on a stand made by BCHS volunteer Manfred Wegner, represent our determination to again overcome the chaos of a storm event.

Our program on April 16th, *Under the Shad Moon: The Lenape New Year*, will feature an illustrated talk on "Tantaqua, Last Sachem of the Hackensacks," who is especially important to the history of New Bridge Landing. Tantaqua sold what is now northern Teaneck in 1677 and then resided where the Steuben House was built in 1752 on what was originally known as *Tantaqua's Plain*. Interviewed by a German missionary in 1679, he told the creation story of his people, of how the first dry land appeared from the waters that covered the earth when a great tortoise raised his muddy back above the surface of the water, which was recorded for posterity. It is our hope to build a lasting memorial to Tantaqua in Brett Park, which would be the first memorial to the Native American inhabitants of New Jersey in the state, as described in our *Comprehensive Interpretive Plan*. Kevin has a copy of his "turtle" mark made on the 1677 deed for Teaneck, which could be used in the pattern for the mound, garden or memorial, whatever is finally chosen. Incidentally, internationally renowned wildlife artist Charles Livingston Bull, of Oradell, drew the Bergen County Historical Society's trademark turtle emblem in 1928.

VII. New Business

A. Eagle Scout Project

Resolved, the Historic New Bridge Landing State Park Commission, acting in good faith, authorizes Robert Garcia's Eagle Scout Project on the east side of the 1889 swing bridge as described in his proposal. The Historic New Bridge Landing State Park Commission determines the project will not adversely affect historic resources.

Motion, L. Bauer; second, A. Strobel. **Motion carried.**

VIII. Public Comment

IX. Adjournment

Chairman J. Smith adjourned the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

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 April 7, 2016. Future meetings are scheduled for May 5, June 2, July 7, August 4, September 1, October 6, November 3, December 1, 2016, and January 5, 2017.

Meeting of the Historic New Bridge Landing State Park Commission
April 7, 2016

I. Open Public Meetings Act Statement

Secretary K. Wright read the Open Public Meetings Act statement and Chairman J. Smith opened the meeting at 7:09 PM.

II. Attendance

J. Smith; L. Bauer; E. Pain; D. Powell; Thea Sirocchi-Hurley.

Excused: J. Bellis Sr; M. Donohue; W. J. Oddie; A. Strobel.

Also, J. G. Trontis; Assistant Director, State Park Service; K. Wright, secretary (alternate for Blauvelt-Demarest Foundation); Richard Karp; Lou Kahn.

III. Review of Minutes

Review of the Minutes of the Meeting of March 3, 2016. Motion to approve: L. Bauer; second, D. Powell. **Motion carried.**

IV. Calendar

Sunday, April 10, 2016

Authors' Day, 1 – 5 p.m.
Sixteen authors will have books available for purchase and signing in the Steuben House. At 2 p.m., author Jim Wright, writer of "The Bird

Watcher” column in the *Record* will read from his children’s books. At 3:30 p.m., historical researcher Ree Hopper will lead a book discussion on the 2015 historical novel *Girl Waits with Gun* by Amy Stewart.

Saturday, April 16, 2016

Bergen County Historic Preservation Workshop: Linking History and Community, 9 am – 4 pm. Jonathan Kinney of SHPO speaks on *Preservation Tools in NJ*; historian Kevin Wright will give an illustrated talk on Bergen County’s domestic architecture (1640-1940); former Ridgewood librarian and historian Peggy Norris on researching the history of buildings; and a panel discussion on historic preservation issues in Bergen County. \$30 per person by pre-registration.

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

School of Interpretation, 7:30 pm. Historian K. Wright on the cultural landscapes and New Bridge.

Thursday, April 21, 2016

BCHS Lecture Series, 7 pm. Author Louis L. Picone. On “Birthplaces of the American Presidents.

Sunday, April 24, 2016

Earth Day Clean Up, 8 – 11 am. Removal of non-native plants and cleaning up debris on both sides of the Hackensack River at New Bridge.

Saturday, April 30, 2016

Battleground Tour of New Bridge, 11 am. Historians Todd Braisted and K. wright lead walking tour of Revolutionary War battleground at New Bridge.

Wednesday, May 18, 2016

School of Interpretation, 7:30 pm. Historian K. Wright gives second part of talk on the Basics of Historical Interpretation.

Sunday, May 22, 2016, 1- 5 pm.

Pinkster Fest: A Colonial Celebration of Spring. Maypole dances at 1:30 and 3 pm. Pinkster cake, strawberries and cream, donuts and lemonade. Third NJ Regiment demonstrates military skills. Michelle Green gives spinning demonstration in Demarest House, Garden tours and children's games.

Saturday, June 4, 2016

King's Birthday, 1 – 5 pm.

V. Chairman's Report

Good evening everyone,

I want to thank everyone for attending tonight's meeting on this first spring (I use that term loosely) meeting. Events at New Bridge Landing continue forward, as the Bergen County Historical Society continues its wide array of high quality programming. The Society recently conducted a spring cleaning, to help clear up large debris throughout the site and to begin preparation for a busy spring calendar.

I want to thank Eric Pain and the DEP for the construction of the 4-rail fence near the turn-around of the Steuben House. This is a major improvement to the core of the site, which directs pedestrian traffic onto the 18th century road as the approach to the Steuben House and prevents vehicle traffic onto the site. Therefore, moving forward we should begin the process of the removal of the large red reflectors that are on the west side wooden bollards, eventually

removing the guard rail on the west side, as the lead up to the bridge, and removing the “bridge closed / No parking sign,” which is now located on the “closed” side of the gate. The Commission would welcome a discussion on the current road signs located on Main St. in River Edge, so that redundant signs can either be removed or placed on the property Steuben Arms.

Speaking of the approach to the bridge, the brush and vines located on the east side (New Milford) were removed by the Eagle Scout in the first step of his wooden “guard rail” project. Special thanks to the New Milford DPW for helping with the removal of these. Once the wooden stockade fence comes down, a view, not seen in many years, will return to New Bridge from the Teaneck/New Milford side, which is very exciting and should be a sign to the community that (A.) both sides of the bridge matter, and (B.) the area is not an eyesore but instead a destination.

I want to thank Larry for helping to organize an Earth Day Clean Up on April 24th. We are starting to be contacted by different groups that want to help out and it is exciting to see so many members of the community wanting to be involved here at New Bridge, a green oasis in a sea of suburbia.

Lastly, the Bergen County Historical Society, and specifically, Deborah Powell, have been working on two upcoming events, Author’s Day, which will occur this Sunday, and a Historic Preservation workshop, which will occur the following weekend. If you have not been to an event lately at New Bridge, I definitely encourage you to attend any number of events that have been planned to see Historic New Bridge Landing come to life.

VI. Continuing Business

A. Teaneck

Commissioner L. Bauer reported he emailed Caitlin Doran, outreach coordinator for the Hackensack Riverkeeper, about participation in our Earth Day Spring Cleanup, scheduled for April 24, but she informed him that the group would be at Woodcliff Lake that day. However, a large group in River Edge that came out last year contacted chairman J. Smith about participating. Commissioner Thea Sirocchi-Hurley said she would try and contact New Milford girl and boy scouts. Chairman J. Smith noted the amount of garbage coming from New Bridge Road onto the new nature trail and will have volunteers focus on picking litter from that area. He also will continue work on clearing away invasive vines and plants along the riverbank in Brett Park to restore the viewshed and to save large trees. Richard Karp, president of the Friends of the Hackensack River Greenway through Teaneck, said his group would also participate. Larry Bauer also reached out to Gene Coleman, of the Teaneck Historic Preservation Commission, for their participation.

Commissioner L. Bauer noted the Teaneck Chamber of Commerce will sponsor a forum for candidates for Teaneck Council at Black Box Studios on Monday, April 11, 2016 at 7 p.m. He will throw out a question on heritage tourism and see what the candidates are willing to do.

Lastly, commissioner L. Bauer suggested a possible “historical treasure hunt” at Historic New Bridge Landing as a promotion to encourage public interest. He also wondered if installation of a bike stall might encourage bicyclists to come.

B. New Milford

Thea Sirocchi-Hurley reported that restoration of an 1867 map entitled “From Palisades to Paterson, New Jersey,” found years ago in Marlene Casey’s basement and donated to the New Milford Historic Preservation Commission, has won a historic preservation award for preservation education from the County of Bergen, which will be presented on May 5, 2016. She also spoke to Randi Duffy, of the New Milford Beautification Committee, about their possible involvement in plantings at the east abutment of the 1889 swing bridge. Richard Karp suggested contacting the Master Gardeners of Bergen County, associated with the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Offices, who meet regularly at 1 Bergen County Plaza in Hackensack, and see if they might be interested in getting involved.

C. River Edge

Deborah Powell and Kevin Wright visited on Tuesday, April 5, with Mary Donohue at the facility where she is recuperating from knee surgery. She has made remarkable progress and hopes to attend our next meeting. She is already working on our next Naturalization ceremony.

D. County of Bergen

Secretary K. Wright reported that he worked with Saverio Marinelli, project coordinator for the Bergen County Department of Parks, to have three potential bidders tour the Campbell-Christie House for replacing the old heating/air conditioning systems.

E. DEP – Steuben House

Ringwood Superintendent Eric Pain reported:

Masonry Project: The project has been put out to bid with an end date of Friday, March 8, 2016. All bids that are submitted will be reviewed and a contractor will be selected based on the bids that are received. This

information will be submitted to the Historic New Bridge Landing State Park Commission at the May 5, 2016 meeting.

Electric Meter: Additional information is being requested from the HNBLSPC specifically concerning the location and for the concern of historic fabric intrusions. Further discussions required.

Fencing: Complete. Concerns?

Parking Lot Striping: Repeated calls to the River Edge Borough Office to date have not been returned. Chairman Smith provided Eric Pain with a number for the Borough Engineer Robert Costa and a call was placed to his office on Tuesday, April 5, 2016. Mr. Costa was not available at the the time of the call. Follow up calls will be placed in an effort to obtain the needed information concerning any ordinances that may exist. Once determined the Ringwood State Park Office will immediately begin soliciting quotes for the striping of the parking lot. Once the quotes have been received they will be submitted to the HNBLSPC for review and approval.

From a review of past minutes, Secretary K. Wright noted that Acting Northern Regional Superintendent Steve Ellis reported he called a company to do the temporary striping of the former Pizza Town parking lot in November 2010. The following month, the commission was informed that the former Pizza Town lot would be surfaced and striped for an estimated 100 parking spaces, including handicapped spaces close to the Main Street/Hackensack Avenue crosswalk. It was further reported in January 2011, that the former Pizza Town lot had been temporarily striped for about seventy parking spaces, but because of the onset of cold weather, a final asphalt coating could not be installed on the parking lot until the following spring, when it would be re-striped; this never happened. While understanding the importance of matching the borough's requirements regarding the dimensions of parking spaces, etc., Secretary Wright asked whether or not it was necessary to comply with borough ordinances on state-owned and administered land, especially since this was, in effect, simply a re-striping?

Snow Removal: Report of tire marks leading to the building were noted in the minutes from March 3, 2016 meeting. The installation of the fencing should eliminate this issue however the contractor claimed that this was not done by his company.

Landscaping and Maintenance: Ringwood State Park maintenance team will work directly with LaSalle Landscaping to reclaim the borders of the stone dust path on all state owned properties, especially through the meadow.

Storm Jonas: The storm was declared eligible for FEMA reimbursement for damages to buildings and snow removal. Luckily we did not have to submit anything for building damages, however, reimbursement will be sought for contracted snow removal at both Historic New Bridge Landing and the Hermitage in Ho-Ho-Kus.

Heat Checks: Ongoing.

Water Solenoid in Basement: The water solenoid located in the basement of the Steuben House malfunctioned causing interruption in water to the bathroom of the Steuben House. The repair was not covered by the original warranty therefore Mark Lindsay Plumbing performed repairs to the unit, which is now operational. Additional service is required and the contractor is seeking parts to complete the repair.

Projects List: Further discussion required. Ringwood Superintendent has questions about the following:

Prioritize and complete.

- 7 window panes suggestions?
- 9 Restore roadway
- 12 Roundabout
- 13 Brick walkway
- 18 Sutton & Lys property. Complete grade property?
- 23 Light bulbs – identify style RSP to provide.
- 24 Example of acceptable fixture(s)
- 25 Furnace room light. Complete?
- 27 Lock boxes. HNBLSPC identify and RSP will obtain.
- 28 Paint rear rooms. Discuss.
- 29 Lock on north door Removed?
- 32 Remove fluorescent lighting. ID fixture RSP will install.

General Maintenance: RSP employees continue to respond to the Steuben House to perform general cleaning of the building on a monthly or more frequent basis as scheduled events require.

F. Blauvelt-Demarest Foundation

G. Bergen County Historical Society

Commissioner D. Powell reported on the Bergen County Historical Society's continuing efforts at high-quality programming and said she is reaching out to new venues to market the site. She noted our rising profile

brings in more and more people, who are interested and enthusiastic about the site. She also thanked County Executive James Tedesco for including mention of the Steuben House and the Bergen County Historical Society in his introductory comments in the 2016 Meadowlands Visitors Guide Book.

VII. New Business

VIII. Public Comment

In response to a question from Lou Kahn, Chairman J. Smith noted we are in a holding pattern on the former PSE&G substation.

IX. Adjournment

Chairman J. Smith adjourned the meeting at 8:56 p.m.

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 May 5, 2016. Future meetings are scheduled for June 2, July 7, August 4, September 1, October 6, November 3, December 1, 2016, and January 5, 2017.

Meeting of the Historic New Bridge Landing State Park Commission
May 5, 2016

I. Open Public Meetings Act Statement

Secretary K. Wright read the Open Public Meetings Act statement and Chairman J. Smith opened the meeting at 7:06 PM.

II. Attendance

M. Donohue; J. Smith; L. Bauer; E. Pain; D. Powell; A. Strobel.

Excused: J. Bellis Sr; W. J. Oddie; Thea Sirocchi-Hurley

Also, K. Wright, secretary (alternate for Blauvelt-Demarest Foundation); Superintendent Josh Osowski; J. Heffernan; Richard Karp; Lou Kahn.

III. Review of Minutes

Review of the Minutes of the Meeting of April 7, 2016. Motion to approve: L. Bauer; second, M. Donohue. **Motion carried.** A. Strobel, abstained.

IV. Calendar

Wednesday, May 18, 2016	School of Interpretation, 7:30 pm. Historian K. Wright gives second part of talk on the Basics of Historical Interpretation.
Sunday, May 22, 2016, 1- 5 pm.	Pinkster Fest: A Colonial Celebration of Spring. Maypole dances at 1:30 and 3 pm. Pinkster cake, strawberries and cream, donuts and lemonade. Third NJ Regiment demonstrates military skills. Michelle Green gives spinning demonstration in Demarest House, Garden tours and children's games.
Saturday, June 4, 2016	King's Birthday, 1 – 5 pm.
Sunday, July 3, 2016	walking Tours of Historic New Bridge Landing.
Saturday, July 9, 2016	Vintage Baseball at New Bridge Landing. Double-header between the Flemington Neshanocks and the Brooklyn Eckfords. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Saturday, July 16, 2016	Calico Frolic, 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
August 13, 2016	<i>Countdown to America 250: The Protest and Repeal of the Stamp Act.</i>

V. Chairman's Report

Good evening everyone,

I want to thank everyone for attending tonight's meeting. It seems like every month I say this, but once again, the site was alive with activity all month. From walking tours, lectures, a preservation conference and author's day, to the monthly lecture series and Earth Day clean up. All events were well attended and well received.

First, I want to thank Shirley from the BCHS who was able to secure a dumpster for the cleanup from Westphal. And thank you to Mary D., who contacted the River Edge DPW to pick up the brush that was cleaned out around the site. Many thanks to Larry and others who participated in the site wide clean up, we continue to make progress and the old rule goes, if people don't see garbage, they tend to not leave it, plus it's great for the environment and great to engage the communities. Also, if you haven't noticed, the stockade fence has come down and reproduction wooden guard rails have gone up on the bridge approach / New Milford side. The fence was put up many years ago to hide an even larger chain link fence that was used to hide the junk at the old Canoe club. This now begins to create an attractive destination for those in New Milford and Teaneck and no longer is the area an eyesore. This will also allow for greater interpretation of the site as one can clearly see across the bridge. Thank you to Bobby G. and his Eagle Scout project, we look forward to its finished results and thank you to New Milford DPW who picked up the brush that was cleaned up.

On Monday, the Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission was mentioned in the *Record*, I will now share part of Mr. Esslin's article:

"A Senate committee Monday advanced a bill aimed at giving greater autonomy to the Historic New Bridge Landing Commission, which oversees the Revolutionary War site in Bergen County.

The Senate Environment and Energy Committee approved the measure in a 4-0 vote following a brief hearing. The measure would give the panel some independence from the state Department of Environmental Protection which also oversees the historic park located in parts of River Edge, Teaneck and New Milford.

'We want to give them more autonomy to be able to do the plan for the land in the future,' said Sen. Loretta Weinberg, D-Teaneck, who along with Sen. Gerald Cardinale, R-Demarest, are the prime sponsors of the bill.

The bill stated that the commission would be 'in but not of,' the DEP.

'We in Bergen County have a wealth of revolutionary war sites and as a county we do not do enough to publicize these destinations as a visitors' destination,' she said "We are attempting to give New Bridge Landing a little more autonomy to do that and hopefully at some point give them a line item in the budget."

I believe that this is an important moment for the Commission. First, the bipartisan support for our efforts is greatly appreciated and recognized. Secondly, and more importantly, it should move the law forward by clarifying the law. It is important to emphasize that every member here plays an important role and I believe we have demonstrated and will continue to demonstrate the coordination of activities

at New Bridge. Lastly, I want to stress the importance of the Commission receiving line-item funding in the budget. The possibilities that this would create are immense. Number 1, the ability to hire a full time director / interpreter. Number 2 the ability to hire seasonal and interpretative staff. Number 3 hire professional consultants and experts on a multitude of issues. Number 4 – having a daily presence at the site and the ability to manage locally.

As a reminder, I would ask that all discussions remain on topic and all topics remain focused on and around Historic New Bridge Landing. Public discussion is available at the end of the meeting and please remember to wait to be recognized by the Chair. Again, I greatly appreciate your support and continue to encourage dialogue and discussions. Thank you.

VI. Continuing Business

A. Teaneck

Commissioner L. Bauer noted there is nothing much to report, except that he is pushing on the Council to build a better understanding of heritage tourism and to build a better working partnership with the Teaneck Historic Preservation Commission.

Chairman J. Smith asked for commissioner Bauer's assistance in putting up the third Historic New Bridge Landing blue sign (identical to those in the former Pizza Town parking lot and in the roundabout at the Steuben House) in Brett Park, which would better tie together the battleground park on both sides of the river. Commissioner D. Powell suggested a location at the top of the hill near the intersection of River Road and Riverview Avenue. Commissioner Bauer said he did not think this would be a problem and agreed to work on it.

Secretary K. Wright forwarded W. J. Oddie's regrets for being unable to attend this evening.

B. New Milford

Chairman J. Smith thanked the New Milford Department of Public Works for their assistance in removing debris next to the 1889 swing bridge as part of the Eagle Scout project.

C. River Edge

Commissioner M. Donohue reported she would make a presentation of her book on Historic New Bridge Landing at the River Dell Middle School on May 10, 2016. She also noted the Green Team from St. Peter the Apostle's Church is eager to be of as much help as possible. She lastly noted the

importance of getting the former PSE&G substation property as an integral part of the battleground.

D. County of Bergen

Commissioner A. Strobel provided updates on two items. He connected with County drainage engineer Christos Kavvadas, who advised him that the public works staff has inspected and performed clean-out work at the two drainage outlets. They will return to the site to further inspect where drainage manhole covers may be covered with soil. County Engineer Joe Femia is okay with committing funds to make progress with the drainage system. Commissioner D. Powell noted the tidal puddles that surround the drainage grates may pose an increasing threat from mosquitos carrying the ZIKA virus.

As Secretary K. Wright notes at the last meeting, Saverio Marinelli, project coordinator for the Bergen County Department of Parks, had three potential bidders tour the Campbell-Christie House for replacing the old heating/air conditioning systems. Brian Heinzmann informed him that the contract was awarded to the lowest qualified bidder, F & G Mechanical, of Secaucus. Jim and Kevin will be informed as soon as conveniently possible about the work schedule in order to provide access.

Commissioner Strobel also had a conversation with the County deputy engineer regarding the large red triangular signs posted at the west approach to the 1889 swing-bridge. He will seek her recommendations regarding less obtrusive replacements, now that the gate and fence have been installed, blocking the vacated portion of the roadway. This led to a discussion of possibly picking more appropriate bollards for a historical park setting and removing or re-locating the County's "Bridge Closed" sign and the "No Parking" sign that are now located inside of the gated portion of the vacated roadway. Secretary K. Wright noted that the "No Parking" sign had been installed years ago by the Borough of River Edge at his request. This led to a discussion of the "1776 Retreat" route signs and their possible updating in regards to locations.

E. DEP – Steuben House

Ringwood Superintendent Eric Pain reported:

Masonry Project: Bids were due to the Northern Regional Office on Friday, March 4, 2016. Karol Bernadic was the winning bidder on the project. His previous experience includes historic masonry work at Skylands Manor, Waterloo, and D&R Canal as well as replacement of the windows for the historic Tran Terminal at Liberty State Park. Information regarding his experience and credentials were shared with Chairman

Smith via email. Chairman Smith suggested that additional discussions take place at the May 5th meeting.

Superintendent Josh Osowski provided a sample of the mortar in a demonstration model of the joints, which met with general approval. In response to a recommendation from commissioner Strobel, he agreed to provide a time line for the project, stating work would likely begin in July.

Resolved, the Historic New Bridge Landing State Park Commission, acting in good faith, authorizes the State Park Service, acting as the commission's agent, to award the masonry re-pointing project to Karol Bernadic as the lowest qualified bidder, determining this project will have no adverse impact upon historic resources under its jurisdiction. Motion, A. Strobel; second, M. Donohue. **Motion carried.**

Electric Panel Relocation: As per the Office of Resource Development, the electric panel relocation is on record with the Division of Property Management and Construction (DPMC) Code Review #1081-39. As of 5/2 the Office of Resource Development has requested a copy of the plans, permit application and technical sheets regarding the original submission. Once received, copies will be distributed. Once received this information will be shared with the Commission to determine if the plans accurately represent the desired location for the panel(s) to be moved. If a change order is required, we will pursue it based on feedback from the Commission. Commissioner D. Powell asked about the possibility of installing an internal electric meter that could be read remotely. In a discussion of the location of two other electric panels in the basement, Superintendent Pain thought it might make sense to do all in one shot.

Electric Meter Relocation: Ringwood State Park staff has been working with PSE&G to facilitate the relocation of the electric meter from the outside of the building. Initially paperwork is to be filed with PSE&G requesting the relocation of any gas/electric meters. Once complete this matter will be referred to the State Historic Preservation Office for a determination.

Fencing: With the fencing complete concerns were raised about people parking in the vicinity of the fence and on the grass. No parking signs have been ordered and will be installed by Ringwood State Park maintenance staff. The signs that were selected were not standard red-on-white regulatory signs, but rather white-on-brown in an attempt to blend in with the rest of the historic district.

Parking Lot Striping: The Ringwood state Park maintenance staff has been in contact with three vendors for the completion of the Pizza Town lot striping project. Haskell Paving, of Ringwood; Robert Young & Son,

of Tuxedo Park, New York; and D. C. Whiteline Striping, of Sparta. Two site visits have been conducted and we are anticipating the third this week. Once plans are received they will be shared with the Commission.

Snow Removal: While a relatively mild winter, there were some minor concerns with the services provided by the snow removal contractor. These concerns will be considered when seeking bids for the following season..

Landscaping and Maintenance: Ringwood State Park maintenance team will work directly with LaSalle Landscaping to reclaim the borders of the stone dust path on all state owned properties, especially through the meadow. Ringwood State Park will work with a landscaper to perform the seasonal services as we have in the past. Generally speaking, large-scale landscaping services are performed in the spring, summer and fall in an effort to keep the adjoining properties looking crisp.

Chairman J. Smith asked Superintendent Pain to remind LaSalle Landscaping not to cut down or spray herbicides on the flower bed plantings along the south gable-end of the Steuben House.

Commissioner D. Powell asked Superintendent Pain if he might ask about the moss roses that were removed decades ago from the front lawn of the Steuben House and planted outside the greenhouses at Skylands Manor for their safekeeping. She asked about possible restoration of this historic planting to its original location, if they have survived?

Chairman J. Smith reported that Society volunteers were propagating cutting from the boxwood bushes at the Steuben House, which were planted as cuttings thirty-five years ago and were taken from very old bushes lining the entrance walk to Shippen Manor in Oxford, New Jersey.

Heat Checks: Ongoing as needed.

Water Solenoid in Basement: Mark Lindsay Plumbing performed repairs to the unit, which is now operational. Additional service is required and the contractor is seeking parts to complete the repair. Ongoing.

Projects List: Further discussion required. Ringwood Superintendent has questions about the following:

Prioritize and complete.

7 window panes (D. Powell will survey antique window panes)

9 Restore roadway

12 Roundabout

13 Brick walkway
18 Sutton & Lys property. Complete grade property?
23 Light bulbs – Chairman J. Smith will identify style of LED bulbs.
24 Example of acceptable fixture(s)
25 Furnace room light. Complete?
27 Lock boxes. HNBLSPC identify and RSP will obtain.
28 Paint rear rooms. Discuss.
29 Lock on north door removed? Secretary K. wright confirmed the lock on the north door had been removed.
32 Remove fluorescent lighting. Secretary K. wright will look for appropriate lighting devices and fixtures.

General Maintenance: RSP employees continue to respond to the Steuben House to perform general cleaning of the building on a monthly or more frequent basis as scheduled events require.

Commissioner D. Powell recommended sealing the replaced floorboards and refinishing the floors on the first floor to blend old with the new. This will better protect replacement boards from future warpage.

In response to a question from commissioner A. Strobel regarding the status of the porch column repairs, Superintendent Josh Osowski reported the bid process has just started and he will report on progress. Superintendent E. Pain reported the 2001 restoration project has the paint schemes for the porch columns and exterior woodwork. He agreed to provide Chairman J. Smith with this information regarding the historic colors.

Superintendent E. Pain reported he checked the switch for the light in the furnace room and it is now working.

Commissioner A. Strobel complimented Superintendent Pain and his staff for completing so many agenda items. Superintendent Pain responded, saying he is looking forward to continued progress.

F. Blauvelt-Demarest Foundation

G. Bergen County Historical Society

Commissioner D. Powell reported on a list of notable accomplishments in the past month, including two cleanups, a clean out of the barn, volunteer Manfred Wegner putting up shelving to display the Society's Hackensack valley brick collection in the barn, and the museum committee's progress on pulling out the brick collection.

Commissioner D. Powell expressed concern over two halves of a millstone, retrieved from the site of the Zabriskie tide mill at New Bridge during dredging in 1905, which are now residing around the Steuben House—one half used as a bench and the other used as a stepping-stone. These are subject not only to erosion of their features, most notable, the sickle-pattern of “furrows” cut into their grinding surfaces, but also to possible theft or vandalism.

Resolved, the Historic New Bridge Landing State Park Commission, acting in good faith, authorized the removal of the two halves of the historic millstones, unearthed during dredging of the outlet of Coles Brook in 1905, and presently located on the grounds around the Steuben House, to the Westervelt-Thomas Barn for safe keeping and preservation, determining this project will have no negative impact on historic resources under the commission’s jurisdiction. Motion, D. Powell; second, M. Donohue. Motion carried.

Commissioner A. Strobel asked if he should request County assistance in the relocation of the millstone, which was gratefully received.

Commissioner D. Powell noted her son Ivan had located a very interesting letter in the recently published digital catalogue of the New York Public Library, written by Alexander Hamilton from “New Bridge” when he was serving as Washington’s aide-de-camp during the Steenrapie encampment, which was transcribed and published in the Society’s webpage and digital newsletter *Our Connection to the Past*, to great public interest.

VII. New Business

VIII. Public Comment

In response to a question from Lou Kahn, commissioner A. Strobel noted the County of Bergen had installed the brown directional road signage for Historic New Bridge Landing at all turns and major intersections leading to the site and that these had been updated within the last few years, replacing any missing directional signs. Commissioner Strobel also suggested an informational sign at the New Bridge Landing station on NJ Transit’s Pascack line, which met with general approval and agreement.

Richard Karp noted K. Wright would be giving a historical walking tour of Terhune Park for the Friends of the Hackensack Greenway through Teaneck on June 12, 2016.

IX. Adjournment

Chairman J. Smith adjourned the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

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 June 2, 2016. Future meetings are scheduled for July 7, August 4, September 1, October 6, November 3, December 1, 2016, and January 5, 2017.

Meeting of the Historic New Bridge Landing State Park Commission
June 2, 2016

I. Open Public Meetings Act Statement

Secretary K. Wright read the Open Public Meetings Act statement and Chairman J. Smith opened the meeting at 7:06 PM.

II. Attendance

M. Donohue; J. Smith; Thea Sirocchi-Hurley; E. Pain; D. Powell; A. Strobel.

Excused: J. Bellis Sr; W. J. Oddie; L. Bauer.

Also, K. Wright, secretary (alternate for Blauvelt-Demarest Foundation); J. Heffernan; Richard Karp; J. G. Trontis, Assistant Director, State Park Service.

III. Review of Minutes

Review of the Minutes of the Meeting of May 5, 2016. Motion to approve: A. Strobel; second, M. Donohue. Motion carried.

IV. Calendar

Saturday, June 4, 2016 King's Birthday, 1 – 5 pm.

Saturday, July 2, 2016 Walking Tour of Historic New Bridge Landing.

Saturday, July 9, 2016 Vintage Baseball at New Bridge Landing. Double-header between the Flemington Neshanocks and the Brooklyn Eckfords. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Saturday, July 16, 2016 Calico Frolic, 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

August 13, 2016 Countdown to America 250: The Protest and Repeal of the Stamp Act.

Wednesday, September 21, 2016 School of Interpretation, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 25, 2016 Baronfest: A Celebration of Major General Baron von Steuben at his Jersey estate, 1–5 p.m.

Monday, September 19, 2016 (?) Bergen LEADS

Thursday, September 29, 2016 Naturalization Ceremony, 10:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 8, 2016 River Dell Greater Chamber of Commerce Event

Wednesday, October 19, 2016 School of Interpretation, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 30, 2016 Harvest Homecoming at New Bridge, 1-4:30 p.m. Historian K. Wright speaks on Lutheran Church and Burial Ground and the French Burial Ground at New Bridge.

Sunday, November 6, 2016 Mitzvah Day, 10 a.m. – 12 noon.

Sunday, November 6, 2016 Veterans' Day, 1 p.m.

V. Chairman's Report

Good evening everyone,

Summer it would appear has arrived early. And not too soon, the new heating and a/c system is being installed at the Campbell–Christie House. Special thanks to Kevin Wright for coordinating BCHS volunteers to open the house for the contractors over multiple days to see the work completed. Special thanks as well to Adam and the County of Bergen for updating the system and making the project move ahead quickly.

In other news around the Park, “Old” New Bridge Road has been paved up to the bridge. This is a major improvement and ties in with all the work that has been put in via the Eagle Scout Project of making the bridge more approachable from Teaneck and New Milford. Again, it should be a destination for people to walk in the footsteps of Washington and approach New Bridge, and I do believe we are getting to that point. Moving forward, I do think we can tackle some small changes to the area:

1.) Signage, the BCHS is working to create updated signage for the bridge to improve the visitors experience and be less intrusive but informational. The current brown signs were great for their time, but moving forward, we must challenge ourselves to stay current.

2.) Remove the “Retreat” sign that is on the lead up to the bridge and instead, place it on a new post between Steuben Lane and the intersection of Old New Bridge Road and River View (Sanzari’s New Bridge Inn).

3.) Removal of the steel guard rail and replace with decorative steel bollards. This will allow for smoother pedestrian travel across the bridge, but also be more aesthetically pleasing. If we were to move forward in this direction, it would also be interesting to remove the pavement and replace it with pavers. We can discuss this further and adopt a resolution.

I think it is important for us to have goals and what we want to accomplish throughout the site, to improve the visitor’s experience and most importantly, do the best at showcasing an important piece of Bergen’s history, located in the heart of the County.

Thank you.

James Smith, Chairman

Historic New Bridge Landing State Park Commission

VI. Continuing Business

A. Teaneck

B. New Milford

Commissioner Thea Sirocchi-Hurley reported on the Bergen County Historic Preservation Award for New Milford’s Historic Map Preservation Project and Brochure for restoration of the 1867 map, “From Palisades to Paterson, New Jersey,” which was donated to New Milford’s Historic Preservation Commission and is now displayed in the borough’s public library. She also noted the French Cemetery had been opened this past Friday for 40-50 people.

C. River Edge

Commissioner M. Donohue reported on discussions to acquire the former PSE&G substation as part of the Revolutionary War Battleground at Historic New Bridge Landing, especially since it was the site of the tidal gristmill and pond. The Bergen County Historical Society would be interested in purchasing it, but the assessed value is out-of-line with the adjacent Society-owned section of the river landing. Assistant Director J. G. Trontis, of the State Park Service, suggested applying for a Green Acres grant. Commissioner A. Strobel noted the County’s Open Space Trust Fund could be used to acquire the property and to transfer to the Bergen County Historical Society. Chairman J. Smith asked commissioner A. Strobel to get more information on the possible availability of Open Space Trust Fund and Green Acres moneys to acquire the substation lot.

D. County of Bergen

Commissioner A. Strobel provided updates on three items: Installation of the new AC/heating units at the Campbell-Christie House is underway by F&G Mechanical Corporation and hopefully will be completed quickly. Kevin has been working with Saverio Marinelli, project coordinator for the Bergen County Department of Parks, to coordinate access to the building as required. Secondly, he brought Gary from the County engineering department to look at both sides of the 1889 swing-bridge and possibly to consider removing the old metal barrier on the east side and replacing it with more decorative bollards, since something fixed would have to replace it since Old New Bridge Road is still active. Chairman J. Smith noted we could submit examples of bollards with reflective strips once we get to that point. The large red diamond-shaped signs on the west side were discussed in light of the new fencing and gate that now blocks access from Main Street. He will report back to County Public-Works Engineer Nancy Dargis, so hopefully we'll have an update by the next meeting. County drainage engineer Christos Kavvadas is still waiting on Mosquito Control to unearth the manhole covers related to the storm-drainage system.

E. DEP – Steuben House

Ringwood Superintendent Eric Pain reported:

Masonry Project: At the May meeting it was stated that the work was scheduled to begin in the month of July. The selected bidder is currently finishing up a large roofing project at Waterloo Village and has confirmed they will be ready to begin the project at the Steuben House in late July or early August. To the extent possible the work will be scheduled around any planned event.

Electric Panel Relocation: Plans are available for review. If a change order is required, we will pursue it based on feedback from the Commission. The Northern Regional Construction Maintenance Specialist will meet with bidders and keep the Commission informed.

Resolved, the Historic New Bridge Landing State Park Commission, acting in good faith, has reviewed plans for “Electrical Upgrades to Steuben House at Historic New Bridge Landing State Park, River Edge, New Jersey, Project No. P1081.39, prepared by Holt Morgan Russell Architects, Construction Bid Documents, dated July 24, 2012,” and authorizes the State Park Service, acting as the commission’s agent, to undertake the project as described, determining this project will have no adverse impact upon historic resources under its jurisdiction. Motion, A. Strobel; second, D. Powell. Motion carried.

Porch Columns: As per the Northern Regional Construction Maintenance Specialist, he will be working with the previous contractors that submitted bids for the work. Once additional information is available, it will be provided for the Commission to review.

Electric Meter Relocation: Additional information is required to submit the application to PSE&G. The Northern Regional Construction Maintenance Specialist has been provided with the application and will review it. An onsite meeting with an electrician will likely be required. Once complete this matter will be referred to the State Historic Preservation Office for a determination.

Fencing: The “No Parking” signs were installed on the split-rail fence in the vicinity of the turnaround at the Steuben House. .

Landscaping Projects: I have received estimates for fixing the island at the turn around as well as re-establishing the stone dust path. Both estimates are above the threshold that I can authorize without soliciting additional quotations. Additional estimates will be sought and upon receipt hared with the Commission for review. Secretary K. Wright noted that the best solution would be to re-grade the roundabout so it doesn’t dip into the gully feeding the storm drain of the old vacated roadway. Commissioner A. Strobel noted that you would have to do the engineering first to resolve the issue. Chairman J. Smith noted the greatest problem is where cars make the turn, where there is a deep rut, often concealed with a puddle. He suggested as a temporary fix that they go back and reduce the project below the threshold.

Parking Lot Striping: Quotes for the striping of the former Pizza Town parking lot have been received. Upon review and approval by the Commission the low bid vendor will be authorized to perform the work. If approved I anticipate the work being completed before the Vintage Base Ball Game, scheduled for Saturday, July 9.

Resolved, the Historic New Bridge Landing State Park Commission, acting in good faith, authorizes the State Park Service, acting as the commission’s agent, to undertake striping of the parking lot on the former Pizza Town property with nine-foot spaces and to include two van-accessible ADA spaces, by contractor Haskell Paving Inc., according to Proposal No. 3420, dated May 9, 2016, determining this project will have no adverse impact upon historic resources under its jurisdiction. Motion, M. Donohue; second, Thea S. Hurley. Motion carried.

Landscaping: General landscaping continues to be performed at the Steuben House on a monthly basis. The larger scale maintenance was performed by Green Meadows on May 20th as LaSalle Landscaping was unavailable to perform in the timeframe needed. Another large scale mowing will be performed just prior to the Vintage Base Ball Game, scheduled for Saturday, July 9th. Green Meadows charged \$525 for mowing the Saw Shop property, the Meadow, and the Sutton & Lys property.

Water Solenoid in Basement: Ongoing.

2001 Restoration Project Paint Samples: Information available.

Moss Roses: The landscape designer from the New Jersey State Botanical Garden reported that the moss roses that were at one time located at the Steuben House are no longer represented at the State Botanical Garden.

Projects List: Items requiring clarification:

7 window panes (D. Powell will survey antique window panes)
23 Light bulbs – Chairman J. Smith will identify style of LED bulbs.
27 Lock boxes. HNBLSPC identify and RSP will obtain.
32 Remove fluorescent lighting. Secretary K. Wright will look for appropriate lighting devices and fixtures.

General Maintenance: RSP employees continue to respond to the Steuben House to perform general cleaning of the building on a monthly or more frequent basis as scheduled events require.

Superintendent E. Pain noted he is happy to be at the table and looks forward to getting more things accomplished.

F. Blauvelt-Demarest Foundation

Alternate commissioner K. Wright noted the Blauvelt-Demarest Foundation is undertaking landscape maintenance of the grounds, which is greatly appreciated. He also noted the Demarest House is open for all events and recently featured spinners, historical children's games, historical interpreters, and Revolutionary War military reenactors.

G. Bergen County Historical Society

Commissioner D. Powell reported that two local chapters of the DAR presented the Bergen County Historical Society with a donation of \$1,000 on May 14, 2016, after a luncheon at Sanzari's New Bridge Inn and a walking tour of Historic New Bridge Landing, led by historian K. Wright.

She also noted the new Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia is interested in obtaining a copy of a daguerreotype of an African-American woman who was an eye-witness to the American Revolution as a child in Bergen County.

Chairman J. Smith noted the outstanding job done as an Eagle Scout project on the approaches to the 1889 swing-bridge, installing, priming and painting the wooden posts and rails.

VII. New Business

A. Vice-Chairwoman M. Donohue reported our Naturalization ceremony will take place on September 29, 2016, the last Thursday in the month. She is confirming the list of speakers.

VIII. Public Comment

Assistant Director J. G. Trontis, of the State Park Service, invited everyone to view the special exhibit of US flags at Twin Lights Historic Site.

IX. Adjournment

Chairman J. Smith adjourned the meeting at 8:51 p.m.

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 7, 2016. Future meetings are scheduled for August 4, September 1, October 6, November 3, December 1, 2016, and January 5, 2017.

Meeting of the Historic New Bridge Landing State Park Commission July 7, 2016

I. Open Public Meetings Act Statement

Secretary K. Wright read the Open Public Meetings Act statement and Chairman J. Smith opened the meeting at 7:02 PM.

II. Attendance

L. Bauer; M. Donohue; J. Smith; W. J. Oddie; E. Pain; D. Powell; A. Strobel.

Excused: J. Bellis Sr; Thea Sirocchi-Hurley.

Also, K. Wright, secretary (alternate for Blauvelt-Demarest Foundation); J. Heffernan; Richard Karp; Lou Kahn.

III. Review of Minutes

Review of the Minutes of the Meeting of June 2, 2016. Motion to approve: M. Donohue; second, D. Powell. **Motion carried.**

IV. Calendar

Saturday, July 9, 2016

Vintage Baseball at New Bridge Landing. Double-header between the Flemington Neshanocks and

	the Brooklyn Eckfords. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Saturday, July 16, 2016	Calico Frolic, 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
August 13, 2016	<i>Countdown to America 250: The Protest and Repeal of the Stamp Act.</i>
Wednesday, September 21, 2016	School of Interpretation, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, September 25, 2016	Baronfest: A Celebration of Major General Baron von Steuben at his Jersey estate, 1–5 p.m.
Monday, September 19, 2016 (?)	Bergen LEADS
Thursday, September 29, 2016	Naturalization Ceremony, 10:30 p.m.
Saturday, October 8, 2016	River Dell Greater Chamber of Commerce Event
Wednesday, October 19, 2016	School of Interpretation, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, October 30, 2016	Harvest Homecoming at New Bridge, 1-4:30 p.m. Historian K. Wright speaks on Lutheran Church and Burial Ground and the French Burial Ground at New Bridge.
Sunday, November 6, 2016	Mitzvah Day, 10 a.m. – 12 noon.
Sunday, November 6, 2016	Veterans' Day, 1 p.m.

V. Chairman's Report

Good evening everyone and welcome to tonight's Commission meeting,

Summer is officially here at Historic New Bridge Landing. I applaud all of you who have been busy these last few weeks and greatly appreciate the updates. As you look out the window, you will see a new addition added by the Society—well, 5 new additions. Thanks to a generous donor, the Society was able to plant native trees along the fence line outside the Campbell-Christie House. Eventually, these will provide native habitat, shade, and screen modern intrusions to the site. They also add to the continued benefit of our neighbors in River Edge.

I do appreciate constant communication Eric Pain has demonstrated to ensure that the Meadow was addressed prior to the big game this weekend. It is amazing that only a few years ago it was an auto-parts yard and now, is a beautiful green space in the heart of Bergen County. I also want to thank the correspondence with Bergen County representative Adam Strobel, who updated us on the removal of the red markers on the bridge, among other things. Again, this is a major milestone and even in a recent *Record* article, a photographer was able to take a picture on the bridge due to the sign removal. This step can only enhance the core of the site. Speaking of the core, the Eagle Scout Project has been completed and wooden guard rails have been restored. Again, another major accomplishment that changes how we interpret the area. With the reflective signs and stockade fence down, we can next focus on the new interpretive panels that the Society has begun researching.

As some of you may or may not know, I was the President of the Bergen County Historical Society. However, my term ended this past June and a new president was elected. The new President asked if I would continue to serve as the Society's delegate to the Commission and I whole heartedly agreed. I'm excited to continue to serve this Commission and working together as we move the HNBLPC forward. Lastly, I am pleased to announce that the Bergen County Historical Society has approved the initial design of a proper museum building here at New Bridge. This building will seamlessly blend in with the surrounding buildings, be both energy efficient and environmentally responsible, along with providing a safe and secure location for a majority of the Society's collections in a proper museum building. This is an important moment for the Society and the Commission in general, in that, it will eventually change how we interpret different buildings, allows for their reinterpretation and lastly, be able to fully tell the story of Bergen's unique history, the Society's mission. With a plan in place, the Society has begun the process of contacting civil engineers, general contractors, and lawyers, to ensure that all t's are crossed and i's are dotted. Likewise, as these developments occur, they will be submitted to this Commission.

As a reminder, please keep discussions on target, focused and public comment will occur at the end of the meeting.

Thank you.

James Smith, Chairman
Historic New Bridge Landing State Park Commission

VI. Continuing Business

A. Teaneck

Commissioner L. Bauer reported on the program sponsored by the Township of Teaneck and the Teaneck Chamber of Commerce concerning economic development on the Alfred Avenue industrial site and the Degraw site. He handed out the BCHS' walking tour brochure of HNBL. Chairman J. Smith noted that this November 20th commemorates the 250th anniversary of the British invasion and American Retreat from Fort Lee and he would like to get the ball rolling on including Brett Park in the reenactment. He also encouraged participation in the October cleanup scheduled for Brett Park and the possible installation of the HNBL signage in the park. Commissioner L. Bauer said he reached out to the Teaneck Historic Preservation Committee on this.

B. New Milford

Secretary K. Wright noted that Thea Sirocchi-Hurley notified him that she was unable to attend this evening's meeting because she is on vacation.

C. River Edge

Commissioner M. Donohue gave the following report:

- i. Spoke to Mayor Mignone about his offer to contact Kevin O'Connor, PSE&G Commissioner, and Joe Anzevino, River Edge Tax Assessor, regarding a new assessment for the PSE&G vacated property. Mayor said he had not received a response from either official but that he would follow up. Mayor also asked Freeholder J. Felice to assist in identifying a contact for this matter. On July 5 again contacted Mayor Mignone and he responded that he is actively engaged in this matter and he shares the HNBLP Commission's objectives.
- ii. Emailed Adam Strobel regarding his offer at June meeting to research possible funding from Bergen County for the Society's acquisition of the PSE&G site.
- iii. Regarding the preservation of the American Legion Building cornerstone, at a meeting with the Mayor and Council it was expressed by both the HNBLPC and the REHS that they were satisfied with having the cornerstone given to BCHS for future placement in the proposed Museum of History for safekeeping.

- iv. The Naturalization ceremony has been scheduled for Thursday, September 29 at 11 a.m. Mayor Mignone from River Edge and Mayor Ann Subrizi from New Milford will deliver opening remarks and Councilman Vito Acquafredda from River Edge, architect and naturalized immigrant himself, will address the new citizens. The League of Women Voters has also been contacted and they will register the new citizens to vote in time for the Presidential election.
- v. At the REHC table at the Fourth Festivities in River Edge we sold 8 books on the Story of New Bridge Landing. I am giving BCHS President the check in the amount of \$160 to be added to the museum fund.
- vi. I spoke to the Mayor's office regarding the geese-feeding problem we are encountering at HNBL. There is an Ordinance #1437 of September 3, 2003, restricting the feeding of wildlife but it is practically impossible to enforce. However, it was suggested that appropriate signs be placed at HNBL telling the public why it is not advisable to feed the geese and at the same time informing them that there is an ordinance in effect that would fine them \$500 for violation.
- vii. On June 23 I met with Michele Cariddi and Bob Dundiego from the RE Beautification Committee regarding the possibility of having the REBC design plantings at HNBLP. We met at the site and they were delighted and full of enthusiasm about the possibilities of using their gardening expertise at New Bridge. They would like to first restore the gardens that used to be at the side entrance to the Steuben House where the picnic bench and table are now located. They would like me to inquire whether there would be a budget for purchasing the plants – if we provide for the cost of the plants, they will establish the garden and be responsible for its upkeep. The Green Team at St. Peter's is also willing to help with the gardening. Chairman J. Smith said their proposal should first be presented to the Building & Grounds Committee of the Bergen County Historical Society to coordinate efforts and then a plan submitted to the HNBLSP Commission.
- viii. M. Donohue spoke about the proposed expansion of Van Saun Park---the proposal calls for 600 to 800 car parking garage to be built on Howland Avenue entrance to the park. I wrote to Mayor Mignone. She also requested any more information on this from Commissioner A. Strobel. Mayor Mignone indicated that he and the Council were opposed to the proposal. No one from the County has approached River Edge despite the fact that although it is a County park, nine-tenths of Van Saun Park is located in River Edge.

D. County of Bergen

Commissioner A. Strobel was pleased to see the installation of the new AC/heating units at the Campbell-Christie House, which are now in working order. Kevin thanked all those involved in the project from the County of Bergen, especially Saverio Marinelli, project coordinator for the Bergen County Department of Parks, but also Commissioner A. Strobel and Cynthia Forester of the Division of Cultural & Historic Affairs. He also thanked the BCHS volunteers who kept the building open whenever required to complete the installation.

Commissioner A. Strobel explained that the Freeholders authorized implementation of the Open Space Trust Fund, which generates about \$4.2 million annually. The next funding round applications are due October 13, 2016, for all categories of land to be acquired, including historic preservation, County recreational facilities, flood plain acquisition, farmland preservation and municipal park improvements. Non-profits are eligible to apply, including the Bergen County Historical Society and the Blauvelt-Demarest Foundation. The State of New Jersey would not be eligible. An appraisal would be necessary as well as an environmental assessment, deed search and survey. Open Space Trust Fund may cover up to 90% of acquisition cost. The application form is available on the County of Bergen's Open Space Trust Fund website, starting Monday.

Commissioner A. Strobel also reported some progress on the drainage system. County drainage engineer Christos Kavvadas is still waiting on Mosquito Control to unearth the manhole covers related to the storm-drainage system so he can borrow television equipment from the Northwest Utilities Authority to inspect the pipes. He will then speak with county Engineer Joe Femia to get cost estimates.

County Public-Works Engineer Nancy Dargis took Gary Hemmer's assessment of the site and removed the large red diamond signs from the bollards on the west approach to the bridge. One of the suggestions is to pull out the guard rail on the east side of the swing-bridge, but some permanent installation need to be made, such as the gate on the west side of the bridge blocking Main Street. He relayed this information to Chairman J. Smith and Secretary K. Wright and hopes to engage the State Park service in this dialogue. Chairman James Smith suggested asking New Milford to vacate the dead-end portion of Old New Bridge Road between the west entrance to the bridge and Steuben Lane and place a wooden gate, similar to the one the State Park Service made to close off the vacated portion of Main Street in River Edge. Commissioner E. Pain said his carpenter at Ringwood State Park has the ability to replicate the gate that is on Main street, although funding is a possible concern.

Chairman J. Smith said he would discuss his proposal with the New Milford representative at the next meeting.

E. DEP – Steuben House

Ringwood Superintendent Eric Pain reported:

Masonry Project: The contractor is still on schedule to begin the project at the Steuben House in late July or early August.

Electric Panel Relocation: The Northern Regional Office awarded the contract for the Steuben House Electrical Project to low-bidder Nu-Star Electrical Contracting, Inc., of West Milford for \$14,900 on June 29, 2016.

Porch Columns: Bids were received from three pre-qualified contractors to do repair work to nine porch columns at the Steuben House, based upon specifications in the Scope of Work (Steuben House, Front Porch Column Repair) : Maio Construction, Inc., of Newton, NJ, \$4,950; Karol Bernadic Construction Co., Inc., \$9,747; Castle Point Remodeling LLC, of Hopatcong, NJ, for \$11,050.

Electric Meter Relocation: The Northern Regional Construction Maintenance recommends waiting for the electrical panel is relocated to see what space is available for an interior meter.

Landscaping Projects: The Meadow has been cut. Three bids were received for landscaping around the flagpole at the turnabout, but were over the spending threshold. Until a better solution can be made, recommended seeding with grass and covering with hay. Chairman J. Smith agreed it would be good to move forward with this recommendation. The bids for clearing the stone-dust path through the Meadow were over the spending threshold.

Parking Lot Striping: The former Pizza Town parking lot has been re-striped. Will follow up with signage.

Landscaping: General landscaping continues to be performed at the Steuben House on a monthly basis. Green Meadows is undertaking larger scale landscaping maintenance projects.

Water Solenoid in Basement: Repairs completed.

Commissioner D. Powell again noted the fungus growing at the base of the red oak tree at the northeast corner of the Steuben House and asked if

anything could be done about it. It was planted as the state tree to mark the opening of the Steuben House in 1939.

Secretary K. Wright asked if the elevated floor in the old bathroom in the Steuben House could be removed to expose the original floor boards (as was included in the SHPO-approved grant project in 2007), so as to enable the installation of the two interior doors, fabricates in 2007 for this purpose, which will only fit if and when the elevated floor is removed. The Pergo floor covering in the southwest room on the second floor could also be removed to expose the original floorboards.

Chairman J. Smith thanked Eric Pain for his continued cooperation and communication.

F. Blauvelt-Demarest Foundation

As alternate commissioner for the Blauvelt-Demarest Foundation, Secretary K. Wright noted the Demarest House is open for all events and recently featured spinners, historical children's games, historical interpreters, and Revolutionary War military reenactors.

G. Bergen County Historical Society

Commissioner D. Powell reported that updating the heating/air conditioning system has allowed the museum committee to continue work on the collections in the upstairs of the Campbell-Christie House and will provide the necessary climate control to best protect the artifacts. She also noted the Bergen County Historical Society continues to grow as an organization through increasing membership and donations. Just this evening, we received the donation of an antique photograph of the New Bridge Inn. We are also making good progress on the care and conservation of the museum and library collections. We are presently undertaking a reorganization of the exhibits in the Westervelt-Thomas Barn to make room for the safe storage and display of the two halves of the tidal millstones presently situated outside the on the grounds of the Steuben House. In concert with this, volunteer and trustee emeritus Manfred Wegner has produced a wooden model of the former tide mill at New Bridge for display. She also noted that several posts and rails on the Meadow need replacement.

VII. New Business

- A. Beverly Hashimoto, chairwoman of the BCHS Buildings & Grounds Committee, spoke on the restoration of the historical landscapes at Historic New Bridge Landing, especially noting the enjoyment that

children and adults alike get from visiting the tavern garden outside the Campbell-Christie House. Chairman J. Smith advocated the planting of tree saplings inside the fence around the Meadow, starting with a red oak near the entrance at the corner of New Bridge Road and Main Street. Northern Regional Superintendent Josh Osowski thought it possible to get 2 to 3-inch caliper red oak trees for this purpose. Commissioner Deborah Powell brought up the possibility of planting street trees in the public right-of-way along the Steuben Arms side of Main Street/ She also noted the picnic table at the Steuben House was in a rather sorry state of disrepair, but she liked the idea of having people lunch there, which adds vigilance to the property.

- B. Chairman J. Smith passed around a rough rendering from Harvest Moon Timber Frame of Morris, Connecticut, depicting the timber-frame building the Bergen County Historical Society is proposing for their museum building. The building will have a 36' by 62' overall footprint, consisting of a 36' by 48' foot timber-frame barn with a 36' by 14' enclosed lean-to at the east gable end. The shed extension will house ADA-compliant restrooms, accessible from an interior hallway and from the exterior. This will be a great advantage to the site. It will also include a small catering kitchen. The building will include a 48" wide timber stairway to the second floor, which will be used for museum storage. It is proposed to situate the building to the northwest and rear of the Campbell-Christie House so as to replicate a tavern stable, such as would have been the norm in the eighteenth-century. This also makes the best topographical sense in that the earthen ramp rising to the floor level of the rear entrance to the Campbell-Christie House could be used to reach the entrance to the new museum, which will not have a basement and which we hope to set on piers so as to avoid any infill of the flood plain. We are looking to construct an environmentally sound building that will also keep down future maintenance costs while blending in with the site. We are currently in the process of getting a general contractor and will have to hire a civil engineer to oversee siting and permitting before we present to the commission and the borough and groundbreaking begins. It will also be a pretty neat public experience to actually raise a barn. The building of the museum will also open up the re-interpretation of the Steuben House and its restoration as an artifact of its time. Secretary K. Wright said that Jim Smith deserves the credit for bringing this project to this stage. Chairman J. Smith concluded, saying he definitely appreciates everyone's support.

Commissioner A. Strobel said he liked the idea and now has a better picture of what we hope to do. He repeated that the County of Bergen might be able to help out with the planning costs with \$50,000 to hire professionals. Chairman J. Smith thanked Adam very much for presenting the County's offer of assistance.

VIII. Public Comment

IX. Adjournment

Chairman J. Smith adjourned the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

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 August 4, 2016. Future meetings are scheduled for September 1, October 6, November 3, December 1, 2016, and January 5, 2017.

Meeting of the Historic New Bridge Landing State Park Commission

August 4, 2016

I. Open Public Meetings Act Statement

Secretary K. Wright read the Open Public Meetings Act statement and Chairman J. Smith opened the meeting at 7:02 PM.

II. Attendance

M. Donohue; J. Smith; E. Pain; D. Powell; A. Strobel; Thea Sirocchi-Hurley.

Excused: J. Bellis Sr; L. Bauer; W. J. Oddie..

Also, K. Wright, secretary (alternate for Blauvelt-Demarest Foundation); Beverly Hashimoto; J. Heffernan; Josh Osowski; Carol Restivo.

III. Review of Minutes

Review of the Minutes of the Meeting of July 7, 2016. Commissioner A. Strobel noted that under VII. New Business, B., his statement, “the County of Bergen might be able to help out with the planning costs with \$50,000 to hire professionals” should read: “the County of Bergen does have \$52,000 to help out with the planning costs to hire professionals.” Motion to approve as corrected: M. Donohue; second, A. Strobel. **Motion carried.**

IV. Calendar

August 13, 2016

*Countdown to America 250:
The Protest and Repeal of the
Stamp Act.*

Wednesday, September 21, 2016	School of Interpretation, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, September 25, 2016	Baronfest: A Celebration of Major General Baron von Steuben at his Jersey estate, 1–5 p.m.
Monday, September 19, 2016 (?)	Bergen LEADS
Thursday, September 29, 2016	Naturalization Ceremony, 10:30 p.m.
Saturday, October 8, 2016	River Dell Greater Chamber of Commerce Event
Wednesday, October 19, 2016	School of Interpretation, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, October 30, 2016	Harvest Homecoming at New Bridge, 1-4:30 p.m. Historian K. Wright speaks on Lutheran Church and Burial Ground and the French Burial Ground at New Bridge.
Sunday, November 6, 2016	Mitzvah Day, 10 a.m. – 12 noon.
Sunday, November 6, 2016	Veterans' Day, 1 p.m.

V. Chairman's Report

Good evening everyone,

With the dog days of summer upon us, events continue here at New Bridge. First, we had our largest crowd to date at our annual Vintage Base Ball game. Having the lot striped, parking attendants, the meadow freshly mowed and amazing volunteers definitely drew the crowds in, it doesn't hurt when the quirky field has a garden in play in center/right field.

In other news, we've seen the explosion of *Pokemon Go* at New Bridge. This has been both positive (new people to the site and they have solved our geese problem) however, we've also seen people parking in front of the "no

parking” signs or riding across the turn around, to rails being broken, probably by accident. We have been, and will continue to be welcoming to all guests here at Historic New Bridge Landing, and I think with 30-40 individuals on site at a given time, it further shows the need of having staff on site, to not only monitor, but welcome these new individuals on the historical significance of the grounds and Bergen County in general.

Again, thank you for all that you do on this Commission. Cooperation and communication have highlighted the recent successes of this Commission and I look forward to working with everyone as we move forward. At the September or October meeting, I believe we should review what we have done and further highlight priorities of action items that can be address.

Thank you.

James Smith, Chairman

Historic New Bridge Landing State Park Commission

VI. Continuing Business

A. Teaneck

Although unable to attend this evening’s meeting, commissioner L. Bauer informed Secretary K. Wright that he had entered a discussion with the Teaneck Historic Preservation Commission regarding replacement of the third blue sign for Historic New Bridge Landing in upper Brett Park. Chairman J. Smith said he is also working through commissioner L. Bauer concerning the inclusion of Brett Park in our upcoming event commemorating the 240th anniversary of the 1776 British Invasion and American Retreat from fort Lee in November.

B. New Milford

Commissioner Thea Sirocchi-Hurley passed around images of historical signage that the Borough of New Milford is putting up in different districts, including at New Bridge. Chairman J. Smith raised the possibility of moving the Retreat sign that is presently located on the New Milford side of the 1889 swing-bridge further down Old New Bridge Road to a new location somewhere between the bridge and Sanzari’s New Bridge Inn, so that visitors following the route might see it and be better able to follow westward to the old bridge and the Steuben House..

C. River Edge

Commissioner M. Donohue gave the following report:

- i. The news on PSE&G is as follows: I wrote to Mayor Mignone again and asked for an update on PSE&G purchase. He responded that he has exchanged information with the County Executive's office on the matter and that he is waiting for a response with a contact with whom he is dealing to see if there is any possibility for support from the County Executive on the matter and how much the County might be able to support our request for purchase of the land. I will follow up..
- ii. Mayor Mignone also contacted the County Executive on Van Saun Park enlargement. He reports (quote) "that he is not going to formally offer comments until more concrete details/plans are developed. Remember, the plan had a 15 year plus time frame." The Mayor also expressed a wish to get the PSE&G question resolved first.
- iii. Book sales at the Fourth Festivities were \$160. Book sales at the Vintage Ball game also amounted to \$160.
- iv. The Naturalization ceremony has been confirmed for Thursday, September 29 at 11 a.m. Speakers will be Mayor Ed Mignone of River Edge and Mayor Ann Subrizi of New Milford welcoming candidates and Councilman Vito Acquafredda of River Edge, architect and naturalized citizen, addressing the candidates. The League of Women Voters has agreed to register the candidates immediately after the ceremony so that they will be eligible to vote in the Presidential election in November.
- v. Would like to review with Secretary K. Wright if there is anything we have to do at the Campbell-Christie and Steuben Houses in preparation for the Naturalization ceremony. Secretary K. Wright said both houses have to be cleaned and opened and we usually provide coffee, tea, juice and donuts or other pastries for those waiting to complete their paperwork in the Campbell-Christie House.
- vi. Has there been any decision about accepting the River Edge Beautification Committee's offer of landscaping the garden at the side entrance of the Steuben House? They would need a modest amount of money to begin the planting/repair project. Please advise. Chairman J. Smith responded, saying he'd like to hold off on the River Edge Beautification Committee's offer because of recent expenditures on plantings and equipment purchases for the BCHS Building & Grounds Committee.
- vii. Commissioner M. Donohue also suggested putting a historical marker of some kind at New Bridge Landing Plaza on Main Street to tie the name into the historical park and its history.

D. County of Bergen

Commissioner A. Strobel discussed two items. He reported County drainage engineer Christos Kavvadas expects the television equipment from the Northwest Utilities Authority to come next week so they will be able to inspect the drainage pipes. Regarding the New Milford side of the 1889 swing bridge, which would greatly improve the flow of pedestrians and possibly even horses during special events across the bridge. After some discussion, the commission agreed upon a fluted bollard that was shown in a catalogue provided by the County road engineer. Deborah Powell raised the question of shoveling a path across the bridge in winter for pedestrians, but there is no staff available for such a purpose. John Heffernan also noted the growth of vegetation on the central pier or turntable of the old bridge, which commissioner A. Strobel said would be addressed as manpower becomes available.

E. DEP – Steuben House

Ringwood Superintendent Eric Pain reported:

Masonry Project: I have been informed that the project has now lapsed fiscal years therefore a new purchase order had to be requested. While we are waiting for the new purchase order to be approved the contractor will be finishing another job within the State Park Service that he is working on. I do not have a timeline for the approval of the new purchase order, however I will continue to push for it.

Electric Panel Relocation: Project has been awarded to Nu-Star electrical Contracting of West Milford. Permit package submitted to DPMC on 6/29/16. Plans and specifications emailed to Chairman Smith a Secretary K. Wright on 6/7/16. The Office of Resource Development (ORD) gave the permit and S&S plans to the Northern Region Office (July 22). The PO Request and PB-119 was submitted on July 27th. We are now waiting on the approval of the PO and the work can begin.

Porch Columns: Does the Commission have any objections to using the DPMC pre-qualified contractor Maio Construction, Inc.? The quote has since expired and will require a revision. If approved the contractor has requested the repair work for the columns be handled individually. Each column would be removed and replaced with a temporary support while off site being repaired. Is this agreeable. Chairman J. Smith said we should move forward with the project with the contractor. Asked by commissioner T. Sirocchi-Hurley about how long repairs to each column might take, Superintendent Pain said he would get back to us with a timeline.

Electric Meter Relocation: waiting on the completion of the electric panel relocation. Once that project is complete, this matter will be referred to the State Historic Preservation Office for a determination.

Landscaping Projects: Island: Green Meadows Landscaping repaired the island in the area of the flagpole only to be driven over by visiting traffic. As I understand the repair was nice for only a few days. Chairman J. Smith noted the heavy traffic from Pokemon game-players to the site, many of whom park in the roundabout or nearby on Main Street. Commissioner D. Powell estimated we are receiving as many as several hundred such visitors each day to Historic New Bridge Landing. Stone Dust Path: Waiting on a revised estimate for the maintenance of the stone dust path on the state-owned portion of the park. He might have to use ADA requirements to justify going over the spending threshold. Winter Maintenance: A new contractor (Green Meadows, of Oakland) has been selected for services at the state-owned portions of Historic New Bridge Landing. Once the contract has been sent for signature it will be shared with the commission for review and approval.

Landscaping: General lawn maintenance continues to be performed by LaSalle Landscaping. Green Meadows handles the larger scale services. The Meadow will be cut about a week or so before Baronfest.

Red Oak Trees: Trees will be planted inside the fence line in the Meadow near Hackensack Avenue. A meeting to select exact locations is required. The information I received is that we can get 2" – 2.5" caliper trees for \$140. Looking to plant them early this fall. The BCHS Building & Grounds Committee will supply tree-gators for watering.

Paint Analysis. Additional time is required to review the files in Ringwood related to the Steuben House. The Ringwood RIS feels that a paint analysis had previously been conducted. More information to come. Secretary K. Wright announced that a copy of the 1977 paint analysis for the Steuben House had recently been found in the Bergen County Historical Society's library.

Tree Survey. The New Jersey Forest Service is available to meet with us on August 9th, 10th, or 11th to answer questions and take a look at the Red Oak at the Steuben House as well as some trees on adjacent properties. Chairman J. Smith and BCHS Buildings & Grounds Committee Chairwoman B. Hashimoto agreed to meet the forester on August 10th. Chairman J. Smith was also interested in black walnut trees and Superintendent E. Pain agreed that the nursery at the NJ Botanical Gardens at Skylands might be able to grow saplings from black walnuts we provide from New Bridge Landing.

Projects List. Chairman J. Smith thought it might be helpful to review plans and priorities at the September and October meetings.

Chairman J. Smith thanked Eric Pain for his continued cooperation and communication.

F. Blauvelt-Demarest Foundation

As alternate commissioner for the Blauvelt-Demarest Foundation, Secretary K. Wright noted the purportedly oldest dated chair in New Jersey, displayed in the Demarest House, will be featured in the upcoming installment of a five-part series on Historic New Bridge Landing in the *Town News*, which will feature artifacts at the site.

G. Bergen County Historical Society

Commissioner D. Powell noted that James Smith, as President of the Bergen County Historical Society, had made contact with Harvest Moon Timber Frame in Morris, Connecticut. On Monday, August 1, 2016, Deborah Powell and Kevin Wright visited the company at their offices and were able to work out important details on the timber frame kit to be designed and purchased for the Bergen County Historical Society's museum at Historic New Bridge Landing.

They reported they were not only able to visit Harvest Moon's model barn on the premises and to see the workshop where they produce the timber frames, but also to meet in the offices for a productive discussion on the specifics of our project and needs. They were also able to view samples of construction materials, including Hardy board, SIPS (Structural Insulated Panels), window styles, and various possible roofing materials, ranging from a metal roof to asphalt shingles.

Deborah's preparation of a floor plan to scale was most helpful and they were able to reverse it for use in their design planning in order to have the bathrooms on the ramp (north) side of the proposed building, so as to allow for both access to the restrooms from an inside hallway and from the exterior. In order to better accommodate two ADA restrooms, we agreed that the lean-to on the gable end of the museum/barn, nearest the Campbell-Christie House, be lengthened by two feet to 14 x 36. The shed or lean-to will also have a hallway, a catering kitchen, and a service room.

The main block of the building will still be 48 x 36, but we also agreed that the center aisle will be 16' wide with 10' aisles on the sides, in order to better accommodate seating or dancing or other such activities without visual obstruction from the posts. The main barn will have 10' clear height underneath the loft (i.e., under the girders). The 10' wide side aisles will accommodate exhibits. We discussed having the main entrance on the

ramp side (north of the building) so that a short switchback ramp will connect with the earthen ramp, which presently leads from the parking lot to the rear entrance of the Campbell-Christie House. The main entrance will have sliding barn doors, but also French doors on the interior. A 48” wide timber staircase will rise on the opposite (southeast) corner to the second floor. Instead of an open atrium, which we previously decided against in order to keep as much of the second floor available for museum storage, we might be able to incorporate instead an open well about 16 x 24 that will open through the second floor to show the roof rafters and construction. We could also use this open well to display quilts, flags or other such objects or banners. We also added a prow to the gable end facing the parking lot so that we could have a mechanical hoist to lift objects to and from the second floor storage area through a double-door on the west gable end.

VII. New Business

VIII. Public Comment

IX. Adjournment

Chairman J. Smith adjourned the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

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 September 1, 2016. Future meetings are scheduled for October 6, November 3, December 1, 2016, and January 5, 2017.

Meeting of the Historic New Bridge Landing State Park Commission
September 1, 2016

XI. Open Public Meetings Act Statement

Secretary K. Wright read the Open Public Meetings Act statement and Chairman J. Smith opened the meeting at 7:07 PM.

XII. Attendance

M. Donohue; J. Smith; W. J. Oddie; E. Pain; D. Powell; A. Strobel; Thea Sirocchi-Hurley.

Excused: J. Bellis Sr; L. Bauer.

Also, K. Wright, secretary (alternate for Blauvelt-Demarest Foundation); Josh Osowski; Beverly Hashimoto; J. Heffernan.

XIII. Review of Minutes

Review of the Minutes of the Meeting of August 4, 2016. Motion to approve: M. Donohue; second, Thea Sirocchi-Hurley. **Motion carried.**

XIV. Calendar

Monday, September 12, 2016	Bergen LEADS Class of 2016, Steuben House 3 – 5 p.m.
Thursday, September 15, 2016	BCHS Free Lecture Series: Historian Jonathan Carriel speaks on “The First Clash: The Stamp Act Crisis in New York City.” Steuben House, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, September 21, 2016	School of Interpretation, 7:30 p.m. “The Drillmaster: The life and influence of Baron von Steuben.”
Sunday, September 25, 2016	Baronfest: A Celebration of Major General Baron von Steuben at his Jersey estate, 1–5 p.m. Alementary Craft Beer, Long Hill String Band and Mott’s Artillery. Historian Kevin Wright presents illustrated talk on Baron von Steuben in Steuben House at 2:30 p.m.
Thursday, September 29, 2016	Naturalization Ceremony, 10:30 p.m.
Saturday, October 15, 2016	4 Great Bergen County Chambers of Commerce Fair at HNBL. The Greater Paramus Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Meadowlands Chamber of

	<p>Commerce, the Greater River Dell Chamber of Commerce, and the Greater Hackensack Chamber of Commerce feature local craft beers, food trucks, and children's activities from noon to 5 p.m. adults, \$15; 12-20 yrs., \$10; BCHS members, \$10, Children under 12, free.</p>
Wednesday, October 19, 2016	<p>School of Interpretation, 7:30 p.m. "The Devil's in the Details: The logistics of running events at HNBL"</p>
Thursday, October 20, 2016	<p>BCHS Free Lecture Series: Historian Kevin Wright will present part one of "A Historical Primer and Practical Guide to Bergen County's Domestic Architecture 1640-1940" 7:30 p.m. in the Steuben House.</p>
Sunday, October 30, 2016	<p>Harvest Homecoming at New Bridge, 1-4:30 p.m. Historian K. Wright speaks on Lutheran Church and Burial Ground and the French Burial Ground at New Bridge.</p>
Sunday, November 6, 2016	<p>Mitzvah Day, 10 a.m. – 12 noon. UJA Federation's 19th Annual Mitzvah Day.</p>
Sunday, November 6, 2016	<p>Veterans' Day, 1 p.m. Wreath-laying and ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park, 2 East Franklin Turnpike, Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ. Recognition of Ho-Ho-Kus as an American Revolutionary War battleground.</p>

Saturday, November 12, 2016	<p>BCHS Staff Ride British 1776 Invasion Part II: Historians Tod Braisted and Kevin Wright. Starts and ends at HNBL, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Lunch at Griffin's restaurant in Cresskill. \$85 for BCHS members and \$95 for non-members. Space limited.</p>
Wednesday, November 16, 2016	<p>School of Interpretation, 7:30 p.m. Historian Todd Braisted on "New Bridge in the American Revolution."</p>
Thursday, November 17, 2016	<p>BCHS Free Lecture Series: Historian Kevin Wright will present part two of "A Historical Primer and Practical Guide to Bergen County's Domestic Architecture 1640-1940" 7:30 p.m. in the Steuben House.</p>
Saturday and Sunday, November 19-20	<p>The 240th Anniversary of the British Invasion & American Retreat: The Bergen County Historical Society, Outwater's Militia and the Fourth Battalion, NJ Volunteers sponsor a weekend of living history and scholarly presentations. Adults \$12; Students (6-21 yrs.), \$7; BCHS members, free.</p>
Sunday, December 4, 2016	<p>Sinter Klaas Day at Historic New Bridge Landing. Open House. 1 – 4 p.m. Historian Kevin wright speaks at 1:30 p.m. on "A Light in Winter: Holiday Traditions"</p>

Saturday, December 10, 2016	Decorating Historic New Bridge Landing, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Wednesday, December 14, 2016	School of Interpretation, 7:30 p.m. Historian Kevin Wright speaks on “Between the wars: Growth and Prosperity at 1760s New Bridge”
Saturday and Sunday, December 17-18, 2016	33 rd Annual Colonial Christmas Concerts and Tavern Fare. Concerts on Saturday evening at 6 and 7:45 p.m. and on Sunday at 6 and 7:45 p.m. Tavern open from 6 to 9 p.m. on Saturday and 5 to 8 p.m. on Sunday. Convert tickets: \$32 per person; \$25 for BCHS members. By reservation only.

XV. Chairman’s Report

Good evening everyone,

As we quickly approach Labor Day, once again, the activity at New Bridge is not letting up. The Society recently had an event on site that brought attention to the repeal of the Stamp Act and the role Bergen County played in the process. It is the Society’s hope that sites like Historic New Bridge Landing as well as sites throughout the state, will start focusing on the 250th anniversary of our nation now. Next year, 2017, will mark the 250th anniversary of the expansion of the Steuben House.

It is exciting that as Eric has communicated to me and I have seen firsthand myself, that repair work has begun on the exterior mortar project. This is a project that yes has been a long time in the making, but, it is exciting to see it being accomplished. With the first renderings coming back of the new museum building, the updates to the Steuben House, and bridge project. Historic New Bridge Landing is preparing for the future, today, through actions of important projects. We must also work to engage the local communities, New Milford, Teaneck and River Edge and discuss ways to do this. To start, we may want to work to have Commissioners from these respective towns make their municipalities aware of what is happening at New

Bridge, whether it be a monthly event or lecture to organizing a clean-up of the area that not only benefits the park, but the environment. Again, this is all of our Commission.

Again, thank you for all that you do on this Commission. Cooperation and communication have highlighted the recent successes of this Commission and I look forward to working with everyone as we move forward. I believe we should review what we have done and further highlight priorities of action items that can be address.

Thank you.

James Smith, Chairman
Historic New Bridge Landing State Park Commission

XVI. Continuing Business

A. Teaneck

Commissioner L. Bauer informed Secretary K. Wright that he would be unable to attend this evening, due to family priorities. Chairman J. Smith said he will work through commissioner L. Bauer concerning the inclusion of Brett Park in our upcoming event commemorating the 240th anniversary of the 1776 British Invasion and American Retreat from Fort Lee in November. The plan is to let the public watch the opening stages of the battle of November 21, 1776, from along Old New bridge road in Teaneck and New Milford and then to actually participate in crossing the bridge. Chairman Smith is therefore requesting that New Milford put up temporary “no parking” signs on Old New Bridge Road between the old General Store building and Sanzari’s New Bridge Inn specifying no parking between 7 a.m. and 1 p.m.

B. New Milford

Commissioner Thea Sirocchi-Hurley reported that at the Mayor and Council meeting on August 22, 2016, the Borough applied to the New Jersey Department of Transportation for grant funding under the Transportation Alternatives Program. This project is identified as “Gateway to Historic New Bridge Landing and New Milford along River Road (Phase 5).”

As noted above, Chairman Smith is requesting that New Milford put up temporary “no parking” signs on Old New Bridge Road between the old General Store building and Sanzari’s New Bridge Inn, specifying no parking between 7 a.m. and 1 p.m.

C. River Edge

Commissioner M. Donohue gave the following report:

1. The Naturalization ceremony is progressing. USCIS expects 24 applicants will become US citizens on Thursday, September 29th at 10:30 am. The brochure for the ceremony is in the planning stages. As is customary, ISCIS will print it. Mayor Ed Mignone, of River Edge, and Mayor Ann Subrizi, from New Milford, will be present to welcome the guests. Councilman Vito Aquafredda, of River Edge, a naturalized citizen and professional architect, will be the keynote speaker. The League of Women Voters are arranging to register the new American citizens immediately after the ceremony so they will be eligible to vote for the President of the U.S. on November 8. It is quite a feat to qualify to vote for the first time in order to elect the President of the U.S. The LWV is also presenting each new citizen with a gift package.
2. After many phone calls and visits to the Mayor, we have finally succeeded in obtaining an official interview with executives from PSEG regarding the future determination of the former power station located across the road from HNBL. A meeting has been arranged for Tuesday, September 13 with officers of the BCHS, officers of the HNBLSPC, Mayor Mignone, Freeholder John Felice, and PSEG executives. We are hoping for a favorable decision for the disposition of the land in question.
3. The River Edge Garden Club is waiting for a decision on their offer to landscape a portion of the garden near the Steuben House. They are willing to do the work – we must commit to the cost of the plantings. They will undertake the work and upkeep of plantings.
4. The Green Team of St. Peter the Apostle Church would like to volunteer for a clean-up Project at NB L. They would like the Commission to identify a project for them to espouse.

D. County of Bergen

Commissioner A. Strobel noted there has been no progress on the bollards and storm drains recently due to summer vacations. The operations division did apply herbicide at least twice to remove weeds from the turntable of the 1889 swing bridge. He also reported plywood had been placed over a hole in the bridge decking for health and safety reasons, but he will check into a more permanent solution.

E. DEP – Steuben House

Ringwood Superintendent Eric Pain reported:

DEP REPORT - Steuben House 9/1/16

Masonry Project: Purchase order approved and project is underway

Electric Panel Relocation: Project has been awarded to Nu-Star Electrical Contracting of West Milford. The purchase order has been returned and approved and the work is set to start Friday, September 2nd.

Porch Columns: Maio Construction has been awarded the project. A revised estimate is being submitted by the contractor and work is to start soon. As per the contractor the project will take 3 weeks. As for the time per column he was not able to answer as the extent of the repairs needed for each will be determined once the project is underway. Not all columns will need to be removed to be fixed.

Electric Meter Relocation: Waiting on the completion of the electric panel relocation. Once this project is complete this matter will be referred to the State Historic Preservation Office for a determination.

General Maintenance Requests

Fence Rails -26 replaced
Second story window fixed
Vacuum removed from Landing
Exterior electric box repaired

Landscaping Projects

Stone Dust Path

While waiting for estimates we have sprayed herbicide on the pathway (in accordance with the Ringwood State Park pesticide application program). Licensed operators and applicators were involved with the application. Removal of the overgrown vegetation covering the pathways will either be removed by a contractor or completed by Ringwood State Park Employees

Winter Maintenance

A new contractor has been selected for services at the State owned portions of Historic New Bridge Landing. Once the contract has been sent for signature it will be shared with the commission for approval.

Landscaping

General lawn maintenance continues to be performed by LaSalle Landscaping. Green Meadows handles the larger scale services.

Red Oak Trees

2"-2.5" caliper trees will be planted in the Meadow this fall. Once a date has been selected Ringwood State Park will buy the trees and plan for them to be planted.

Tree Survey

Email requesting additional dates from Forestry was not returned to date. I will ask again

Projects List

Ongoing Review, prioritize and complete (See under "New Business")

Chairman J. Smith thanked Eric Pain for his continued cooperation and communication. Secretary K. Wright requested five copies of the key to the Steuben House to distribute to various volunteer committee heads.

F. Blauvelt-Demarest Foundation

As alternate commissioner for the Blauvelt-Demarest Foundation, Secretary K. Wright noted the Demarest House is open for all Historic New Bridge Landing events.

G. Bergen County Historical Society

Commissioner D. Powell noted a large leakage of water in the attic area above the bathroom at the rear of the Campbell-Christie House, which appears related to the newly installed air-conditioning units. The drywall behind the sink and mirror suffered water-damage and mold growth and will likely require replacement. She also noted our continuing innovative programming, especially the Stamp Act event in August, which continues to draw an interesting and growing attendance and membership.

XVII. New Business

Planning and priorities:

- i. Refinish oak flooring in main rooms at ground level. Seal for better protection against future flooding.
- ii. Install electrical outlet at the north end of the large parlor for powering projectors, sound systems, reading light, etc. This is presently done by running an extension cord into the rear basement room.
- iii. Repair and repaint water-damaged plaster walls in ground-floor rooms.

- iv. Supply bathroom dispensers with proper hand towels, etc.
- v. Repair loose floorboard in upper hall at threshold into room with tavern sign and kas. Tripping hazard.
- vi. Remove raised floor and Pergo flooring outside of bathroom on second floor. Also remove Pergo flooring in adjacent room to southwest. Once floor level is lowered, install reproduction doors at hallway and opposite doorway into rear bedroom. (These doors are stored in attic level). Installation of doors will require selection and purchase of appropriate reproduction hardware.
- vii. Redesign and rebuild roundabout and walkways (a capitol project?).

XVIII. Public Comment

XIX. Adjournment

Chairman J. Smith adjourned the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

XX. 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 October 6, 2016. Future meetings are scheduled for November 3, December 1, 2016, and January 5, 2017.

Meeting of the Historic New Bridge Landing State Park Commission October 6, 2016

I. Open Public Meetings Act Statement

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

II. Attendance

M. Donohue; J. Smith; E. Pain; D. Powell; A. Strobel; L. Bauer; W. J. Oddie, Excused: J. Bellis Sr, Thea Sirocchi-Hurley, K. Wright, secretary (alternate for Blauvelt-Demarest Foundation);
Also J. Heffernan and Richard Karp in attendance

III. Review of Minutes

Review of the Minutes of the Meeting of September 1, 2016.
Eric Pain brought up a discrepancy of the list order of work to be completed at the Steuben House. Agreed to review. Motion to approve minutes: M. Donohue; second, A. Strobel. **Motion carried.**

IV. Calendar

Sunday, November 6, 2016	Mitzvah Day, 10 am– 12 noon.
Sunday, November 6, 2016	Veterans' Day, 1 p.m. Veterans' Park, Ho-ho-kus
Wednesday, November 16, 2016	School of Interpretation, <i>New Bridge in the American Revolution</i> by Todd Braisted
Thursday, November 17, 2016	Monthly Lecture, <i>Bergen County Architecture Part 2</i> . By Kevin Wright, presented by Deborah Powell
Sat & Sun, November 19 & 20	The 240 th Anniversary of the British Invasion & American Retreat from Fort Lee to New Bridge, <i>The Bridge that Saved a Nation</i>
Sunday, December 4, 2016	Sinter Klass Day, Open House, 1-4 pm
Saturday, December 10, 2016	Decorating HNBL for winter holidays, 10 am – 4 pm
Wednesday, December 14, 2016	School of Interpretation
Saturday & Sun, December 17 & 18	The 33 rd Anniversary of Colonial Christmas Concerts, four evening shows with 45 reservations each show, light supper in Campbell-Christie House
Sunday, January 8, 2017	Twelfth Night BCHS Member Party, 2-5 pm

Discussion about October HNBLPC election. Motion to approve to postpone election to November: M. Donohue; second, A. Strobel. John Heffernan asked what was parliamentary rules were, Adam brought up it only identified as October with no other suggestion of why, nothing changes in November and said he felt comfortable postponing it. **Motion carried.**

V. Chairman's Report

Good afternoon everyone,

The cool autumn winds have once again ushered in a very busy fall season at New Bridge. The site was once again alive with Baronfest, lectures, meetings, and the ever moving naturalization ceremony. The mortar project has moved along nicely and as Eric will report, the columns are beginning to be repaired or replaced. This is outstanding progress and we are all grateful of the attention being given to the Steuben House.

I had the pleasure of recently sitting in on a meeting, with our River Edge and BCHS representatives on the Commission, along with dignitaries and officials from the County of Bergen, River Edge and PSEG concerning the substation property at New Bridge. I expressed the importance of this project but also the possibilities that this could mean to historic new bridge landing.... preserving one of the last pieces of the battleground at New Bridge, providing further interpretation on the tidal mill and renewable energy, a revolutionary war monument, and eventually it would aid in the challenges posed by the turn around. Future meetings will occur to ultimately discuss this project as it moves along.

I want to thank our New Milford rep. for helping to furnish street parking prohibitions near the new bridge on Retreat Weekend and for discussing the retreat signage adjustment at the bridge. I've spoke to the mayor of New Milford and she also voices her support on the moving of the retreat sign and I will be speaking to the New Milford DPW to complete this task. I also want to recognize and thank the county for their quick response concerning the water leak in the Campbell Christie House, along with BCHS volunteers for facilitating this process.

October will continue to be a busy month as the schedule shows but we will also be having a site clean up on October 22nd, weather permitting, and another site clean up on November 6th, for Mitzvah Day. Already, this is shaping up to be a large clean up and we will be compiling a list of activities we hope to accomplish on that day.

Ultimately, I am grateful for your support and I look forward to what the future holds. We are quickly approaching the 240th anniversary of retreat, but we also must continue to start thinking about the site for the long term, consulting the management plan, but also ensuring the site's safety and success for the 250th anniversary, which is not that far away.

Thank you.

James Smith, Chairman

Historic New Bridge Landing State Park Commission

VI. Continuing Business

A. Teaneck

Larry Bauer apologized for missing two meetings. One item he want to follow up on was meeting with Kismet Limousine business in shuttling people around area with tours when BCHS is having events. Teaneck Chamber honored FDU president and Holy Name. Encouraged BCHS to reach out to networking with them, that they would be receptive. Chairman Smith brought up the Retreat Weekend of Nov 19 & 20. Teaneck is requiring insurance. Plans include activities this year in Brett Park. Chairman Smith brought up need to clear up Brett Park river bank of invasives.

B. New Milford

Thea Sirocchi-Hurley is not able to be here but Chairman Smith has been working with her to move the blue and yellow Retreat sign to a more visible location. J. Heffernan noted another house was demolished between New Bridge Inn and the New Bridge 1889 bridge.

C. River Edge

I have been in touch several times with Mayor Ed Mignone regarding the PSEG sub-station and he reports that we will have another meeting in October with the BCHS, HNBLPC and PSEG. Regarding the disposition of the PSEG substation. To be continued ...

On September 29, the Naturalization Ceremony took place at the Steuben House. Twenty-three candidates from 13 countries became US citizens. Mayor Ed Mignone addressed the candidates and Kevin Wright was the Keynote Speaker. Both speakers' words were moving and significant and made impressions on the new citizens. The League of Women Voters registered the new citizens immediately after naturalization and they will be eligible to vote for the first time on November 8 for the President of the US. - 32 more days! Many thanks to the LWV for this great service. The DAR also participated by giving each new citizen a special patriotic gift package that included an American flag, and copies of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. Matthew Fairchild, resident of River Edge, was invited to sing the National Anthem and God Bless America. Many thanks to George and Martha Washington (Roger Yaden and Denise Piccinico) for delighting our guests with their presence.

We thank the team from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services that helped to plan for this special occasion. Thanks too, to John and Linda Heffernan and all the volunteers for all the preparation that was required to make the occasion so successful.

The Record sent a reporter and photographer to the event and had an interesting article and photo covering the Naturalization Ceremony on September 30.

I spoke with Pat Almberg, Chairwoman of the St. Peter Green Team and she would like to know the dates you have planned for clean-up at the NBL site and she will spread the Word among the volunteers – who have enjoyed previous participation in this Project.

I am looking forward to River Edge Day, scheduled for October 16 at Memorial Park where I have been invited to sell books on the History of NBL for the benefitting of the museum fund, and also at the River Edge Historic Commission's exhibit at the Cultural Center on October 29th.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Donohue, Vice Chair, HNBLSPC

Chairman Smith asked if it would possible to include events on the River Edge digital board on Kinderkamack Road, M. Donohue thought it would be a good idea. Chairman Smith thought Retreat Weekend should be a big weekend for all of Bergen County. L. Bauer asked if the Mayor of Teaneck give any reason why he didn't attend and M. Donohue agreed she would ask next year.

D. County of Bergen

Update on the safety bollard, timber decking repair and the bathroom items at the Campbell-Christie House at the swing bridge. Adam had a quote of \$9,000 to install 3 bollards, the "rough" decking estimate of \$10,000 and trying to put aside to dedicate towards the bathroom including putting in a new vanity. We have not gotten back whether a County project or would go a different route. Adam said he made a request to the treasurer office for funding for \$22,000. Waiting approval. Gary Hammer in Public Works Dept would facilitate the bollard project. No updates on the storm drains.

D. Powell asked if all the timbers would be replaced and Adam advised no. D. Powell observed the storm drain fix keeps getting pushed back and if there was anything we (HNLBPC) should be doing. Adam suggested he could inquire again before HNBLPC sends a letter.

D. Powell noted there was an article in the Record about a County park plan and the County Executive was forward thinking on making a better park system. Chairman Smith asked about plans to clear out vegetation on the drainage right away. Adam said the TV camera would help determine problem, camera is owned by Northwest Utilities Authority, a shared resource and problems lining up use with tide variations. Chairman Smith asked that we be kept posted and if a letter needs to be drafted we'll definitely get to it.

E. *DEP – Steuben House*

E. Pain reported the masonry pointing was finished and asked for feedback. A. Strobel asked how it looked. D. Powell observed it looked like it should. J. Heffernan noted it blends in. E. Pain was concerned about drips. It was finished before Baronfest. E. Pain reported the column work is underway. Work began on September 28th and take 3-4 weeks. There is a snag on the electrical panel relocation, the wires are not able to be removed, it's thought they are cemented into the slab. The reason for doing was to make the electrical system not subject to floodwaters and turning off the electricity. The contractor reported the only way to do it would be jack-hammer the basement which was not considered acceptable. Change order suggested including a trough installed with new cable by "butt splicing with compression lugs and waterproofing with heat shrink tubing." The trough may allow water in event of flood. The Historic Preservation Office is being consulted, and work with the Regional Office and maintenance staff. The engineer felt it would be 90% waterproof. E. Pain advised he was disappointed by this news and would consult the Commission before proceeding. The cable runs underground. M. Donohue asked who put cables in. The contractor would make sure the electricity was connected at the end of every workday. Meter is on hold until panel location is completed. The new mower is going to work to maintain the path through the Meadow. Hand shoveling snow on the state owned pathways by Green Meadows. E. Pain advised that the contractor reported finding the Sutton-Lys property has been mowed by someone else, it is not known by who for certain but was guessed to be County or town. Forestry is still willing to look at trees on property. Green Meadow contract. Keys of Steuben House were supplied by E. Pain to Chairman Smith. Floor refinishing contractor name is needed to finish the Steuben House floors, open to bid process.

Chairman Smith noted that a patch was made in the mortar next to electrical meter was made in an inappropriate color that stands out. He also asked for the Milner paint colors so that volunteers could paint the house interior. Motion to approve Green Meadow snow Contract: M. Donohue; second, A. Strobel. **Motion carried.** Chairman Smith thanked Pain for all his work.

F. *Blauvelt-Demarest Foundation*

G. *Bergen County Historical Society*

D. Powell thanked the County of Bergen for repair of the bathroom in time for Baronfest, this important especially for a big event. We also had 4 or 5 portajohns rented for that day. As was referenced we had great weather, great crowd, everyone was in really great spirits. We had 35 BCHS volunteer members to staff event. We charged members because we

considered it a fundraising event so the number of new members was slightly down at 17, sometimes we have as many as 25 or 30 family groups. We can thank the River Edge PBA for staffing event. The other events were mentioned but can say the November event is big for telling the story here. I talked it over with Jim, we'll probably be announcing a pretty significant item to the collections, a family I've been in discussions with for over a year is donating a powder horn from a Samuel Demoray, Fort Edward, 1776. Also incised is a fort, a sailing ship, a streetscape and tulips. I'll be sharing it with historians to learn more about it. They were going to give it to the Smithsonian but who advised they would put it in storage and the family wanted it on exhibit. A lawyer drove up from Kentucky to hand deliver it. I think it shows that people have confidence in us to donate an important artifact to us.

VII. New Business

A. Strobel noted the County is partnering with Rutgers to for a new park plan for the county. There was a discussion how to approach HNBL. Should it be included? He advised he sees it positive to the partnership here. M. Donohue stated it should be clear that it notes HNBL State Park and BCHS property. D. Powell asked to see plans, A. Strobel said Rutgers has some documentation on a website, public engagement, draft of report. Park Director Jim Koch wants to have it done immediately.

VIII. Public Comment

IX. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: M. Donohue; second, D. Powell. **Motion carried.** Chairman Smith told everyone to have a great evening and would see everyone in November.

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 November 3, 2016. Future meetings are scheduled for December 1, 2016, and January 5, 2017.

Meeting of the Historic New Bridge Landing State Park Commission
November 3, 2016

I. Open Public Meetings Act Statement

Chairman Jim Smith read the Open Public Meetings Act statement at 7:12 pm.

II. Attendance

James Smith, M. Donohue; J. Smith; E. Pain; D. Powell; A. Strobel; L. Bauer;

Excused: W. J. Oddie, J. Bellis Sr, Thea Sirocchi-Hurley.

J. Heffernan, Carol Restivo, John Trontis, NJDEP, Lou Kahn and Richard Karp were in attendance.

III. Review of Minutes

Review of the Minutes of the Meeting of November 3, 2016. Motion to approve; Adam Strobel, M. Donohue; second. **Motion carried.**

IV. Calendar

Sunday, November 6, 2016	Mitzvah Day, 10 am– 12 noon.
Sunday, November 6, 2016	Veterans' Day, 1 p.m., Ho-ho-kus
Wednesday, November 16, 2016	School of Interpretation, <i>New Bridge in the American Revolution</i> by Todd Braisted
Thursday, November 17, 2016	Monthly Lecture, <i>Bergen County Architecture Part 2</i> . By Kevin Wright, presented by Deborah Powell
Sat & Sun, November 19 & 20	The 240 th Anniversary of the British Invasion & American Retreat from Fort Lee to New Bridge, <i>The Bridge that Saved a Nation</i> . Saturday evening, reading <i>the American Crisis</i> on the Bridge, followed by a lecture.
Sunday, December 4, 2016	Sinter Klass Day, Open House, 1-4 pm
Saturday, December 10, 2016	Decorating HNBL for winter holidays, 10 am – 4 pm

Wednesday, December 14, 2016	School of Interpretation
Saturday & Sun, December 17 & 18	The 33 rd Anniversary of Colonial Christmas Concerts, four evening shows with 45 reservations each show, light supper in Campbell-Christie House
Sunday, January 8, 2017	Twelfth Night BCHS Member Party, 2-5 pm
January 29, 2017	Bridget's Day, Ladies Ramble Quilt Exhibit

V. **Chairman's Report**

Good afternoon everyone,

While we definitely meet today under somber circumstances, I think it is important to remember all that Kevin contributed to Historic New Bridge Landing, Bergen County, and the State of New Jersey, volumes could be written and the many lives Kevin touched or impacted were countless. I think it is also important that we, as a Commission, continue forward with the Commission and its important work.

The Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission was established in 1995 by New Jersey State law N.J.S.A. 13:15 B-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.

The site was open for two large events this past month and a lecture that filled the Steuben House. Once again, the Bergen County Historical Society continued to do what it does best run efficient events that people come away with a sense of history and community. I think one thing that strikes me about the events, is the diverse nature of the crowds that attend them. Young and old, families and individuals, new immigrants and families who helped to build the County. The Society, and site, truly represent the County and it shows the potential that this site offers moving forward.

I want to recognize the efforts of all of our Commission members, thank Deborah for compiling the minutes and encourage everyone to make it out to an event (I hear the 240th is going to be a big deal) and please submit your reports electronically. Thank you!

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

VI. Continuing Business

Annual Election. Filling in for Secretary Kevin Wright who passed away suddenly on October 13, 2016 was Commissioner Deborah Powell who proposed a slate; James Smith for Chairman, Mary Donohue for Vice-Chairwoman, Deborah Powell for Treasurer, Deborah Powell for Secretary. Motion to accept, M. Donohue, second, A. Strobel. Powell asked the commissioners to fill out their paper ballots in conformity with the By-Laws. Chairman Smith asked if there were any nominations from the floor, there being none the motion passed.

VII.

A. Teaneck

Larry Bauer said he had a conversation with Westy Storage on Commerce Ave in Hackensack. They offered their atrium for an event. He thought 50-100 could be accommodated. They want to participate. Mary suggested they make a donation. He attempted to make contact with Triple AAA.

B. New Milford

Thea Sirocchi-Hurley is not able to be here but Chairman Smith meeting with DPW on Wednesday at 9 am regarding moving the New Milford Retreat sign.

C. River Edge

Members of the Borough of River Edge, the BCHS and HNBLPC learned with great sorrow of the passing of Historian Kevin Wright on October 8th. We mourn the loss of a great friend and the inspiration of all our efforts at our historic site. We celebrate his life and the insight and foresight that he lavished at HNBL. I would like to propose that both the BCHS and the HNBLPC consider the naming of the proposed museum building in his memory. We extend to Deborah Powell our sincere sympathy on her great loss. We are grateful for his life that has enriched the study and preservation of our history.

1. On October 7, 2016 I placed an inquiry for help with signage at HNBLP, and on October 20th, I received word from the Mayor's office that the signage problem has been taken care of by DPW. (Chairman Smith noted it was the wrong sign that was addressed)

2. On October 7, 2016, I also placed a request for RE dumpsters from the DPW to be placed at the site for Mitzvah Day and for clean-up with Green Team from St. Peter's parish. DPW responded that they would be there on both dates to collect debris gathered by clean-up volunteers. Bar Mitzvah Day and the Green Team's efforts are greatly appreciated.

3. On October 25 at 4 PM a very favorable meeting was held at Mayor Ed Mignone's office together with officers from PSEG, HNBLP and BCHS concerning the important meeting date. We wish to thank Mayor Mignone for his efforts on behalf of HNBLP. BCHS for the disposition of the former PSEG sub-station adjacent to our site on Main Street. PSEG Will inform us of the next meeting date, when we expect very good news re the PSEG site.

4. On Saturday, October 22, the River Edge Historic Commission held a display of photographs and other artifacts that have been archived by the RE Historic Commission with the help of a professional archivist and member of the staff at the River Edge Public Library, also a professional archivist. The work has been made possible by a grant of \$19,000 for which the Commission had applied earlier in 2016. The funding specified the archival of historic documents and photographs of River Edge covering the period of 1893, to 1950. Completion of the project will continue with the annual funding granted by the RE Mayor and Council to the Commission. The next phase of the work will encompass the history of RE from 1950 to the present. At this writing, students from the Middle School, River Dell and St. Peter Academy have been scheduled to visit the Cultural Center for this Instructive display of the history of River Edge.

Respectfully submitted.

Mary Donohue, Vice Chair HNBLSPC; River Edge Representative

D. County of Bergen

Have favorable information to report from the Treasury department for pay for the bollards. It is dependent on the weather when they can be installed. Also includes repairing the decking. Adam was happy to report meeting with the County engineers Joe Femia and Christos on the drainage project that same day. Joe Femia told Christos Kavvadas to proceed with the project. A report will be written to outline the steps to be taken including clearing vegetation. It may involve DEP permits. Adam noted it is \$22,000 from the County of Bergen. Chairman Smith thanked Adam for his persistence.

E. DEP – Steuben House

- Masonry Project: Project complete. Feedback provided at the October meeting indicated that touch up work might be required in the area of the exterior electrical fixture.

- Electric Panel Relocation As previously reported the project began in early September however the electrician has hit a snag. Nu-Star electric and the engineer from the original project (Steuben House Electrical Upgrades HPO Project # 12-1494) back from 2012 are in the process of getting drawings completed so they can present them to Historic Preservation Office.
- Porch Columns - ongoing
- Electric Meter Relocation Waiting on the completion of the electric panel relocation. Once this project is complete this matter will be referred to the State Historic Preservation Office for a determination.
- Landscaping Projects
- Stone Dust Path
- Ongoing
- Winter Maintenance
- Contract has been signed and returned and Green Meadows Landscaping will provide winter maintenance for the 2017-2018 winter season.
- Red Oak Trees/Tree Survey I am still trying to identify dates to meet with Forestry.
- Projects List Revisit project list order? My records indicated the following.
 - 1) Refinish, stain and seal flooring on main floor. (Previous contractor Mayo Construction was mentioned as a possible contractor.)
 - 2) Remove brick walkway replace with stone dust (discussion ensued whether to replace with brick or stonedust).
 - 3) Install electrical outlet in meeting room near cellar entrance.
 - 4) Sand and paint exterior staircase
 - 5) Remove Pergo floor and remove raised floor and install doors
 - 6) Level and grade roundabout, remove drainage swale and place curbing to demark roadway from island
 - 7) Repair and repaint plaster walls in dwelling room and rear rooms correcting deficiencies. (Chairman Smith observed schedule floor and plaster work at same time in consideration of moving the collections. Commissioner Powell noted a window between events of March 18 and April 8 to accomplish the work)
- Smith noted volunteers at Mitzvah Day raked and cleared the stone dust path of in the Meadow. He asked if the picnic table by the Steuben House could be removed as well as an unused mail box under the backstairs.

F. Blauvelt-Demarest Foundation

G. Bergen County Historical Society

D. Powell said obviously the major event for BCHS and the site was losing my husband Kevin Wright. We had a huge outpouring for the service on October 15th, even people from Sussex County came out to the service, many of you folks here came, I heard it was over 200 people, the COO of the company I work for flew his plane down, people came up

from the shore. John Trontis noted some of the comments from people made you melt. People had some really beautiful things to say, including on Facebook, follow-up letters to the editor. I assume you saw the article on the front page of the Record. I noted at the service that it was a personal loss for me and my family but I don't think it was widely recognized the depth of his knowledge and understanding. He had a cancer diagnosis August 4th and then he was felled by a stroke October 7th, which I later learned was caused by the cancer. Even after the diagnosis he was determined to visit the barn building company and get that building done. He wanted to meet with the site engineer which we did. We received many donations which I am inventorying and in process of writing thank you notes. So trying to make something beautiful (the museum building) out of something horrible. Another perspective is how short our time is, so we shouldn't waste anymore time. As Jim pointed out everyone is determined to move ahead.

Can lead into that we had a really nice event last weekend (Harvest Homecoming) and it's always exciting to see getting new people involved. BCHS member Patty Daurizo researched and made rubbings of BC tombstones for an exhibit, Manfred Wegner build frames for the exhibit. We're working on a quilt exhibit based on a booklet that Kevin researched and wrote back in the 80s. He really laid the groundwork and that is one of the projects I see for myself is publishing his research. I want to thank John Heffernan, Carol Restivo and her family, Jim Purcell, and especially Jim Smith, so many BCHS volunteers have helped pitch in. I think that is what we felt when we first came in 1981 is how compelling and multilayered the site and story is.

Mary added at the course at the BCC *On the Record*, Jay Levin didn't know she was there but he spoke on Kevin for 15 minutes to the class and Mary thought that was so touching. Powell added he was one of the reporters who would call Kevin for information. Powell read the Memoriam that Senator Cardinale sent from the Senate. John Trontis noted what a wonderfully knowledgeable guy he was and from his time working at the Meadowlands Commission knew of the history panels Kevin created for the Commission back in the 1980s. Powell noted Kevin wrote a footnoted document that he distilled down to the panels, some of the later books published on the Meadowlands footnote his research document. And that he pointed out not to think of it as a garbage dump but that the Hudson River painters captured the beauty of the Meadowlands. Mary asked what happened to the panels. Eric said he was in PA when he heard the news. He said he couldn't help but recall a time in the past when they had to provide access to the building and it was close to the holidays and he did not want to be there, he tried not to listen but he found himself immersed in listening to Kevin talking to people and by the end of the day he didn't want it to be over he was so enjoying hearing him. He noted we have some big shoes to fill moving forward. Powell noted Kevin said not too long ago that our coming to the site this isn't going to happen again,

our impact on the site. Powell added it will be something different and that we have a lot of good people involved but it was a certain special time. John Heffernan noted he laid the foundation, Trontis said the PC needed an advocate and it was him. Powell noted the importance of the Park Commission in bringing plans to fruition. Adam Strobel said we should focus on take advantage of our partnerships. He remembered a funny story where Bob Griffin and his task oriented agenda. Strobel got items done on his list and reported to the PC. Bob Griffin said that was all good but you have other things on the list. After the meeting Kevin whispered “we all appreciate what you do, he’s just that way, Bob really appreciates what you do.” Jim Smith ended with “where does one begin.” There were so many things Kevin showed him, items most people do not notice, for instance at the Steuben House, Kevin pointed out “do you see those marks on the wall, they are from tacks from an early wallcovering.” He would say “who would have thought we’d get the junkyard cleaned up?” It’s tough to think where do we want to be in five years, ten years. We should all imagine how to make the site work with all our partners. Lou Kahn noted bringing his school classes to the house and could picture Kevin talking about the artifacts and how much he misses him.

VIII. New Business

Larry Bauer made contact with John Lampert and a brass band. Smith noted we have limited bathroom availability. We look forward to the PC being funded.

IX. Public Comment

X. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: D. Powell; second, Adam Strobel. **Motion carried.** Chairman Smith told everyone to have a great evening and would see everyone in November.

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 December 1, 2016, meet in the Steuben House. Future meetings are scheduled for January 5, 2017, and February 2, 2017.

Meeting of the Historic New Bridge Landing State Park Commission
December 1, 2016

I. Open Public Meetings Act Statement

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

II. Attendance

James Smith, M. Donohue; J. Smith; E. Pain; D. Powell; L. Bauer; Thea Sirocchi-Hurley

Excused: Adam Strobel, W. J. Oddie, J. Bellis Sr.

Josh Osowski; J. Heffernan, Bev Hashimoto were in attendance.

III. Review of Minutes

Review of the Minutes of the Meeting of November 3, 2016. Motion to approve; M. Donohue D. Powell; second. **Motion carried.**

IV. Calendar

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 285 th 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

V. Chairman's Report

Good afternoon everyone,

With December here and the year coming to a close, we can reflect on the ups and downs of the past but we must also continue to look forward as a Commission. November would see the Society sponsor the 240TH Retreat Weekend, which would see retreating soldiers embark from Ft. Lee all the way to New Bridge Landing. Special thanks to the Township of Teaneck and Larry B. for helping to navigate the process. Further incorporating Brett Park and Teaneck is a must. We should start simple, continue with clean ups in Brett Park, continue to engage other groups and look at future ideas, which we can discuss later. I also want to thank the DEP representatives for ensuring that the columns and electrical were completed ahead of the event. Again, this is a major milestone as the House is moving forward and being brought back to its former condition. I have previously mentioned this, but one thing I think we can all envision, is the Steuben House restored to the time of Baron Von Steuben, to be recognizable to the Zabriskie Family and General George Washington himself. Kevin had long advocated this and with a museum building built on site, it would allow this to happen.

But for this to happen, I believe that as a Commission we should craft a vision for the future that coincides with the master plan. Historic New Bridge Landing 250 could very much be that vision, that milestone to aim for. Basically, I am proposing, that we put together a plan for the next ten years at Historic New Bridge Landing to begin preparing for the 250th anniversary of the start of our Country. This could start right away. For instance, firm like HMR could be brought in to review the HABS drawings of the Steuben House, review the Milner Report, and put together a proposal for the full restoration of the Steuben House, which we could see an updated paint analysis, the large room, turned back into two, restoration of the back room and possible slave quarters, along with identifying the location of former buildings at the site.

We would also look at ways to further strengthen our relationships that exist at New Bridge, where each Commissioner, will play a role. We can further discuss this in new business. Again, thank you for your hardwork with the Commission, have a wonderful holiday season for you and your families.

Thank you.

James Smith, Chairman

Historic New Bridge L State Park State Park Commission

VI.

A. Teaneck

Representative not available. Jim Smith reported Teaneck DPW continued clean up work BCHS and other groups had begun. Noted ways to engage community tree survey and maintenance, how overgrown the view to River Road is compared to 2001 when it was open.

B. *New Milford*

Thea Sirocchi-Hurley noted she had been ill and had nothing to report at this time. Jim Smith added thanking Thea that we had a DPW meeting on Nov 10 regarding moving the Retreat sign. The DPW was very accommodating. Jim noted Deborah was able to get some great video footage from the upstairs dormer window in the Steuben House. One can see the general store and that ties in with what we wanted to do with restoring the view and the stockade fence along the bridge. Thea noted she discussed with the police department about No Parking signs. DPW is sending extra personal to check on garbage.

C. *River Edge*

1. I have been in contact several times with Mayor Mignone regarding the PSEG appointment re the disposition of the sub-station property – but so far, no news. PSEG will contact Mayor Migone re the next meeting – which we hope will have long-awaited good news for us at HNBL.
2. Sold two books to students from St. Peter. Giving checks for \$40.00 for the museum fund to Chairman Smith.
3. Attended the RE Cultural Center's exhibit of Fifty Years of RE History, and pleased with public's response to photo display of HNBL.
4. I am reporting a mix-up with the Public Works of RE regarding a dumpster that I asked to be placed on the site for Mitzvah Day. I called the request in the day after our November meeting, but should have checked closer to the needed date. In any event, the collected debris was taken by the RE DPW ... but not on the requested day. Regardless, Thank you to the REDPW who has always been so cooperative with our efforts and requests for help.
5. I have begun collecting information for an application to UNESCO for national and international recognition of NBL as a UNESCO Historic site. The application is lengthy and so is the wait time. Applications are submitted to the UNESCO office in Paris, and, if successful, awards are made once a year.
6. Received condolences from the US Immigration and Citizenship Services regarding Kevin's passing.
7. Would like Board permission to attend the December events at NBL in order to sell books for the museum fund.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Donohue, Commissioner
River Edge Representative

Jim requested the process to engage the town. Mary suggested the churches, schools and to put leaflets around. Jim asked about advertising the events on the electronic signs on Kinderkamack Road.

D. County of Bergen

No report.

E. DEP – Steuben House

- Masonry Project: Project complete. Feedback provided at the October meeting indicated that touch up work might be required in the area of the exterior electrical fixture. Eric noted he was trying to schedule contractor to come back and repair a patch.

- Electric Panel Relocation Project Complete. Eric reported there was a miscommunication on the electric being returned back on at the end of each day.

- Porch Columns Project Complete. Remnants of repair job returned by contractor.

- Electric Meter Relocation: With the electrical panel relocation completed we can now move forward with the relocation of the electric meter. A site meeting will be scheduled with an electrical contractor and a representative from PSE&G.

- Floor Refinishing: Ringwood State Park Staff are soliciting bids for the sanding and refinishing of the first floor of the Steuben House. Information will be shared with the Commission prior to a contractor being awarded the job.

- Landscaping Projects

- Winter Maintenance
Green Meadows Landscaping will provide winter maintenance for the 2016-2017 winter season.

- Red Oak Trees/Tree Survey
To be completed in the spring of 2017

Projects List

- 1) Refinish, stain and seal flooring on main floor

2) Electric Meter Relocation

M. Donohue asked if the Prego Floor was part of the work and Eric advised it needed to be addressed separately.

D. Powell noted she has had trouble with the alarm since the electrical work done. Eric explained that it needed to be reset, the problem was resolved. She also noted the upper attic spot lights are not working and the museum collection committee was only able to access area with flashlights.

Jim Smith noted Green Willow trees were used in the 18th century and wanted to discuss planting one at the far end of the Meadow north. He thanked Eric for removing the decrepit picnic table and that BCHS was planning on donating a new one in the spring.

F. Blauvelt-Demarest Foundation

No report

G. Bergen County Historical Society

D. Powell reported a major donation of the 1776 scrimshaw powder horn with a scene of a fort, streetscape and masted sailing ship. Another major donation of five paintings, the most exciting was of a local woman named Peggy Ackerman born in Paramus in 1756 and her portrait painted in 1810. She noted how rewarding it was to see the collections growing so strongly. She noted BCHS has a deed of gift form for each donation and the items are inventoried. D. Powell said the Retreat Weekend event was just exceptional, the way the reenactors conducted themselves, the way the event was run and telling the story of New Bridge, that this is really the kind of thing we want to be doing here. The public responded. It was a windy day and the flag looked great. We had General Greene on horseback. Jim noted the horse's name is Huckleberry. She had shared the video on YouTube through Facebook. She noted a group of reenactors walked all the way from Fort Lee to New Bridge and were in time for this engagement. They had five Fort Lee police escorts on motorcycles. She noted the first two shows on the Christmas Concerts are already sold out with little advertising, just shows how popular they are. They are part of their holiday celebrations. We are of course missing Kevin who started the whole event. Everybody is chipping putting the pieces together.

VII. New Business

D. Powell requested that reports be sent the Friday before the first Thursday of the month meeting so that she could work on minutes on the weekend. M. Donohue said it was very important to get young people involved. Asked if a way to get a volunteer in to work with schools. D. Powell pointed out that J. Smith has made a huge effort to work with the scouts. J. Smith said the main thing that Kevin Wright said that any site needs the infrastructure, including bathrooms. He envisioned removing the upstairs Steuben House bathroom. He

said you want to make sure it is a high quality event. M. Donohue asked if there was anyway to train docents. D. Powell noted Kevin started a School of Interpretation meeting monthly for years to address this. Kate Reilly is heading that up, so we have a staff of volunteers that have been trained. J. Smith noted difficulty scheduling with the PARC testing in the NJ school system. D. Powell noted it goes to the Steuben House being unstaffed, the Park Commission is unfunded.

J. Smith brought up the 250th: Planning ahead for “Historic New Bridge Landing 250th” He asked for feedback. M. Donohue asked if we shouldn’t be working with Fort Lee and Morristown. D. Powell noted Jim Smith spearheaded working with Fort Lee on the November event, working involving many interested young people, BCHS remembers General Poor on Memorial Day at his burial site in Hackensack and how important, besides BCHS work, the work of the Park Commission is – in fighting for the site. Thea suggested having a table an August event National Night Out. Jim pointed out how complicated the American Revolution story is. D. Powell noted BCHS would probably sometime in the future be able to provide tours for school groups, the new museum building is critical to that. Jim Smith pointed out how we have a pig iron fragment from Long Pond Ironwork found at the NBL wharf in an archeological dig in 1967, Park Commissioners were unaware of this. It is on exhibit upstairs in the Steuben House.

VIII. Public Comment

No public comment

IX. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: M. Donohue; second, Thea Thea Sirocchi-Hurley. **Motion carried.** Chairman Smith told everyone to have a great evening and would see everyone in November.

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 Steuben House. Future meetings are scheduled for January 5, 2017, and February 2, 2017.