

HISTORIC PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD (HPAB) ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Members of HPAB for 2017 were Vic Bary, Kinney Clark, Bill King, Maureen McDougall, Pria McNeil (student member), Ron Meeks, Teresa Montani, Loretta Smith, and Maureen Strazdon (chair). Associate members were Thomas Connolly, Michael Mason, Julie Murphy, Nancy Price, and Stephen Price. Patrick Giblin served as Township Committee Liaison.

HPAB met every month, except for August, usually on the fourth Thursday at the Community Center.

At the first meeting of the year, the Board decided that making the public aware of the inventory of Cranford's historical resources, creating plaques for significant buildings, and getting Cranford designated as a Certified Local Government (CLG) would be the main priorities for HPAB in 2017. Getting information previously collected by HPAB into the Townships' SDL Portal, filing Certificates of Eligibility for selected buildings and districts, and working on communications with the Township Committee and the public to raise interest and knowledge of Cranford's character would also be focuses.

Copies of the *Phase I Cranford Historic Resources Survey: Review of Existing Documentation, Baseline Inventory, and Survey Updates*, completed by HPAB in late 2016, were distributed to Township and County officials and committees, and given to the Library. The 980-page report with maps and supporting materials details the significant houses, buildings, districts, monuments, etc. throughout town as identified in various surveys done by various organizations. The Inventory follows the US Department of Interior guidelines, including background on the history and development of Cranford as well as the inventory, and can be integrated into the Master Plan for use by the Zoning and Planning Boards. Kinney Clark, HPAB member and author of the study, expanded the report to include a story map that provides a more visual presentation of the information that is available on HPAB's website, preservecranford.com. An exhibit about the report was at the Library in May, and Mr Clark made a presentation to the public on November 27.

HPAB designed a bronze plaque stating "This Historically Significant Building Contributes to the Character of Cranford" and chose Franklin Bronze Plaques to create them. Fifty-four buildings that were identified as significant in HPAB's *Survey* qualify for a plaque. Letters will be sent to the owners offering them the opportunity to purchase one. More buildings will be determined to be eligible for the plaques as Phase II of the *Resource Survey* is completed.

HPAB agreed to support the DMC in their efforts on the Certified Local Government designation, one of the goals stated in the DMC Strategic Plan. HPAB member Tom Connolly is also a member of the DMC and has represented HPAB in discussions. HPAB compiled a factsheet and checklist detailing the steps needed to achieve the CLG for use in evaluating progress.

A Certification of Eligibility application was filed with the NJ State Historic Preservation Office for the Masonic Building in May. An application for Sunny Acres is in progress. A Certification of Eligibility is a formal finding that a property or area is eligible to be designated as historic by the State and verifies its historical significance.

To help communicate HPAB's mission, HPAB conducted a History Walk in conjunction with the Municipal Alliance event on May 21. HPAB also participated in the DAR flag pole ceremony on March 11 and the Cranford Paint-out on September 16. To further awareness of preservation with the citizens of Cranford, information about Cranford history and HPAB activities were posted on the HPAB website and on HPAB's Facebook page which had 741 likes as of the end of the year.

Sales of the *Cranford's History and Architecture – A Journey Through Time* DVD which was completed in December, 2015 continue. Over 250 copies have been sold and the project is bringing in funds for other projects. (The copy which was donated to the Library has been borrowed over 80 times.) A map of Cranford that is color-coded with the years houses were built also continues to be popular. The DVD and the map are available in several stores in downtown Cranford and online on the HPAB website, using PayPal. A report of HPAB's fundraising was sent to the Township.

To further awareness of preservation and support the Township Committee, members of HPAB attended several Township Committee Workshop meetings and provided comment on various topics, including a statement on progress and preservation to in October. Extensive comments were sent to the US Army Corps of Engineers concerning their report on flooding. Members of HPAB attended a DMC presentation on their Strategic Plan and provided detailed comments on that Plan in July. HPAB members have met several times with Ron Johnson, Zoning Officer, including to discuss integrating information into the SDL Portal which was denied by the Township. HPAB reviews all variances submitted to the Zoning Board and comments on the historic impact of the project.

HPAB continues to coordinate with the Historical Society on our related missions. Articles written by HPAB members appear in "The Mill Wheel", the Society's newsletter. The two organizations jointly presented the Preservation Award to the Henzingers at 203 Holly Street in April.

Maureen Strazdon, Chair

January 29, 2018