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Waldwick train station rehabilitation makes tracks

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BY JODI WEINBERGER

Waldwick Suburban News
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Waldwick - The Waldwick Community Alliance is interviewing historic preservation contractors and hoping to receive bids for the train station restoration within the next few weeks.

Phase one of the project includes the removal of asphalt within the 8,546-square-foot leased area, re-grading of the site to provide better storm water drainage, replacing a rotten sill plate, foundation repairs, the dismantling of an unstable chimney and the installation of a new chimney that would replicate the original. It will also include the installation of a new roof of either a natural or synthetic slate, and work on the building's windows, doors and siding.

Although the state had asked the alliance to conduct a seismic study of the site, vice president Doug Cowie said Monday, March



28, that the group's architect, Grace Lynch, of Secaucus-based L&C Design Consultants, and historic preservationist Wayne McCabe, of McCabe and Associates "were able to convince the state that this was not necessary based upon previous known findings as well as assumed conditions at the site."

The alliance already has spent thousands of dollars producing studies, including \$17,000 on a historic structure report in 2009 and almost \$11,000 on a report that detailed the scope of the project, which was also submitted to the state.

Cowie said that as of Monday, March 28, all plans have been sent to the state Department of Community Affairs, along with permit fees totaling over \$1,200.

Cowie said the contracting work will cost "substantially more" because the station is a state-owned facility. The alliance became the lessee of the station in 2009 when it signed a 25-year agreement with NJ Transit.

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The contractor also must be on the Bergen County Historic Preservation-approved contractors list because the alliance received county grants for the project.

"The contractor must prove an extensive background in historic preservation work specific to the job they are hired to complete in order to work on the site," Cowie said, "Their work also must be thoroughly inspected by the state Historic Preservation Office."

Meanwhile, fund-raising for the work will continue. Upcoming events will include the annual car show, which has a tentative date of June 12. Cowie said the alliance is also looking to raffle tickets for a five-night Royal Caribbean cruise to Bermuda and will plan a casino night.

"As with everything to date with this project, I am excited that we are closing in on the physical part of the project, but I am going to proceed very cautiously knowing full-well that there will be more roadblocks hidden along the path ahead," Cowie said. "But as we have done before, we are up to the challenge and keep our eye on the prize ahead."

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