

Historical Committee
Minutes of the February 12, 2014 Meeting

Attendance: D. Addario, B. Diem, L. Franklin, B. Titus, S. Tucker and D. Beck-Clemens, Liaison. Absent: B. Aldrich and B. Black. R. Stomber arrived toward the end of the meeting.

Presiding: S. Tucker, Chairperson

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM

The Minutes of the December 8 meeting were approved as circulated. The Minutes of the January 8, 2014 meeting were approved with two minor corrections: S. Tucker was listed twice in the attendance, and on page 2, Claire Gault is an author who lived in town, not lives in town. The Secretary will correct the official minutes for January.

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT – B. Diem

Oaths for members to sign were circulated. Diddy will return them to Borough Hall. She will try to get signatures of those who were absent.

Report on Status of Museum Attendance at Openings

January 5 – Only 4 people showed up, but it was Super Bowl Sunday.
January 19 – Only 5 people came, but they were very interested and stayed a long time. It was a bitter cold day.

Status of Watchung Throws Order

The Throws have been ordered and will be processed when they receive payment from Borough Hall which should be very soon. It was suggested that we advertise that they are available in the Borough Newsletter.

Report on Visit from Charles Eaton

Charles Eaton visited the Texier House on January 26 and he donated more items for our collection. He brought us Civil War artifacts from Congress Eaton's father in law (Captain William Davis Parlin). There are original letters describing his experiences in the Civil War and other very interesting items. There was some discussion about getting the original letters professionally preserved. It was suggested that we ask Elaine Stomber for guidance. It would be helpful if we can find a local source to do it. Another resource would be Christine Lutz, the CAPES evaluator.

There was a brief discussion about documenting sources of the names of our streets in Watchung. (Parlin Lane, Mrs. Eaton's maiden name was Parlin.)

Status of Living History Project

This project is moving along. In January former Mayors Addario and Ellis were interviewed and videotaped. Diddy Addario was also videotaped. This coming Sunday, current Mayor Steve Pote will be interviewed and videotaped and hopefully Betty Black. Diana brought the video of former Mayor Mobus which can be used for this project. .

Borough Newsletter Article

Sue is working on a draft. It is due on February 14. Suggestions were made for topics including the success of our grand opening and the items we have for sale.

Revised Membership List

A revised membership list was circulated, correcting a typo on Lynn Franklin's email address.

LIAISON'S REPORT – D. Beck - Clemens

Dianna circulated an Excel spreadsheet that she started for our mailing list. She reported that she has the sports inventory from Walter Pennet which is also on an Excel spreadsheet. She believes this format will serve us well as we are adding to our mailing list and inventory.

The Plaque honoring donors was circulated to members. The Committee was very pleased with the way it turned out. It is ready to be placed in the Texier Room.

There are some vacancies for employment at Borough Hall and they are listed on the website.

OLD BUSINESS

Budget for 2014

Sue, Diddy, Barbara, Rick, Betty Jean and Lynn met on Saturday, Feb 1 at the Texier House to develop a budget. Lynn has incorporated all the suggestions and the budget for 2014 is ready to be submitted.

Lynn was asked to check on how much money is in our Foundation Account. Members were reminded that all checks donated should be made out to the Watchung Community Foundation, with Historical listed on the memo part of the check.

Dianna will determine if the Borough Committees are permitted to come to the budget hearing. If they are, the Committee would like to be there to address any questions.

Sue reported that Rick has the quotes for the U/V light filters and he will work on lighting for the two upright cases in the Eaton Room and the Castle Wood Carving.

Lynn reported that she sent thank you letters for two donations.

Eagle Scout Project Progress – Justin Scalera

Sue reported that his project has been approved.

Girl Scout Gold Project Progress – Madeline Quinn

Sue reported that her project has been submitted to the Girl Scout Region for approval. Madeline will limit her project to the original school, Valley View, and Bayberry.

Strategic Plan

Diddy reported on the major goals she has been working on and the Committee provided recommendations. Sue and Diddy will work on a draft for the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Vacancy on the Historical Committee

A suggestion was made about who to add to the Historical Committee. Dianna will take the suggestion to Mayor Pote and in the meantime mention to the person that a volunteer form should be submitted to the Borough. She will keep us posted.

Dates for Work Sessions

The following dates were selected for work sessions at the Texier House:

Feb 26 – 1:00 PM
March 6 – 1:30 PM

Texier House Museum Opening Dates

Cover for the museum openings will be as follows:

March 2 – Rick and Sue
March 16 Betse and Barbara
April 6 – Lynn & Diddy and possibly the new member.

Dates for Tea Parties

Sue would like us to host some tea parties within the next month or two. After some discussion it was decided to invite Sue's office group for a tea party and a

tour. This way, we can practice with a friendly group! Then we can decide how to handle some tea parties for the public and decide how to charge a fee.

Shelving for the Upstairs Conference and Work Room

One of the CAPES evaluation recommendations was to get the materials we are working with off the floor and onto ventilated shelving as soon as possible. BJ's has a sale and a coupon for the type of shelving recommended. Lynn has two coupons and will purchase the shelves before the coupon runs out.

Scanner

We need a scanner rather quickly so that Justin Scalera can use it during his project. After some discussion, it was decided to ask Elaine and Rick Stomber for advice on what kind is needed. Christine Lutz could also make suggestions. Sue will follow up.

Joint Meeting with Historical

Sue has had some discussion with Warren Historical. They are very interested in meeting with us and seeing our Museum. They have historical houses but no museum. Sue would like to invite them to the Texier House and she will look into some dates.

Somerset County Cultural and Heritage Commission (SCCHC)

Meetings are held the 1st Wednesday of each month. She has not been able to determine what time the meetings start or where they are held. Barbara will contact Phyllis Fittipaldi about these meetings and let Lynn know. The next meeting should be March 5.

Note Cards and Books

There are still some note cards and books at Borough Hall. Lynn will bring everything back to the Texier House and all purchases can be made from the Museum. Diddy has several Watchung Books which she will return. (She had requests from people for them, but they never picked them up.)

The meeting was adjourned at: 9:30 PM

Submitted by:

Dorothy Addario
Secretary

NEXT MEETING: March 12, 2014, Texier House, 7:00 PM

Approved at the March 12, 2014 Meeting