

Historical Committee
Minutes of the March 11, 2015 Meeting

Attendance: B. Diem, B. Aldrich, L. Franklin, B. Titus, D. B. Clemens, L. Stahl.

Presiding: B. Diem and B. Aldrich, Co-Chairpersons.

The minutes of the February 11, 2015 minutes were approved with a few changes.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Barbara and Diddy met with Tom Herits on Feb. 18, 2015 in regards to the installation of the tin ceiling at the Texier House. Tom thought it would be a good idea to include Rick Stomber in the meeting. So, Barbara and Rick met with Tom Herits and Bob Burns about the ceiling on Feb. 25. Tom expressed the idea that Public Works might be able to install the tin ceiling. He advised Barbara that he will check to see if they can do the installation and then let her know.

Barbara and Diddy met with a few members of Public Works and considered a few large rocks for the Ice Tong project. Public Works can't handle the rocks because they're too big. Barbara suggested we choose the space where the display will go first, so we know what size rocks to pick. Barbara suggested the rock should go where the old swim club was. Dianna advised that lucite yellows in time, so we should ask the monuments people about a different material to use since we had previously discussed using lucite to cover the ice tongs.

Barbara and Lynn F. met with Greg from Greenbrook Monument about the Veterans' Monument. They also mentioned the rocks to him and took him to see them. Greg advised them that he can work with us on the project. They spoke to him about putting names on the monument and he advised them to pursue their search for names so that he can get a start on the project.

Barbara wrote the article for the Mayor's Newsletter. Lynn F. and Lynn S. added a piece on the Collections Policy.

Barbara talked about the three great work sessions we have had. They have been very productive. The Committee is going through materials, filing, and getting organized in order to be able to determine what new displays and exhibits the Committee will create.

Barbara mentioned that while the group was at the Texier House on Feb. 25 and March 20, there were two different light fixtures that began to melt and burn. On Feb. 25, the Fire Dept. was called and Public Works fixed the light. On March 10, Paul Ost happened to be at the Texier House and he took the light apart to try to determine the problem. Barbara called Maria to have Public Works put the light back together. Barbara will speak to Rick to inform him of the problem with the lights since he knows about the covers for the lights and will be able to help determine the problem.

Barbara advised the Committee that the cleaning service had to be called because they didn't come to clean on the previous Friday because of inclement weather. The floor was quite messy due to all of the foot traffic in the Texier House. The cleaning service came out to clean and did a very good job.

Barbara contacted Steve Black twice about a date for a luncheon for Betty Black, but Barbara has not gotten a date from him yet. She will call him again when the weather is better and try to set up a date for the luncheon.

FINANCIAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Lynn Franklin reported that our Borough budget is \$2302.51 after \$60.00 was put on a purchase order for three of the Committee members to attend the Historical class on "Serving Audiences in New Ways" in Plainfield. Lynn advised the Committee that our Watchung Community Foundation current budget is \$14,267.56. She submitted charges that Sue left for various receipts in the amount of \$264.42 for Watchung History Day, class tuition, drop box, etc. Lynn F. advised that there haven't been any donations. She sent a thank you note to Paul Ost in regards to his assistance with the fire (taking the light apart). Lynn does not have a report on the Somerset County Cultural and Heritage Committee because it did not meet last time due to snow.

LIASON'S REPORT

Dianna gave Lynn S. a copy of the resolution approving and accepting the Collections Policy. She advised the Committee that the Policy is on the website.

Dianna will speak to Sue to get the password for drop box.

Dianna contacted Maddie Quinn about the return of the pictures for the school display. Dianna spoke about a letter from Glen LeBoeuf regarding participation in Watchung History Day. Dianna suggested that possibly Shelini might want to work with him. With the Historic Committee's permission, Dianna will give the letter to Shelini and to the Recreation Committee. The Committee granted Dianna its permission to do so.

Dianna reported that the Board of Adjustment was meeting about a proposal for condos to be built on the old O'Connor's site. There is a meeting on Thursday night, March 12, at 7:30 p.m. in regards to a variance for the project.

OLD BUSINESS

Barbara called Mary Cicarelli to ask her if she wanted the scanner which she had donated to be returned to her. She does not want it back; so Barbara will let Diddy know that she can have it.

Barbara discussed the entrance sign and the decision has been made to just put the word "Entrance" under the 10 Mountain Blvd. sign until the outside of the building is either painted or sided.

Barbara reported to the Committee that Sue Tucker offered to e-mail Maddie Quinn about getting the pictures back that Sue had given her for the school project.

Barbara advised the Committee that we need to find out what Chris has been doing with his work on "Reflections of Watchung." She will call him to find out.

Barbara asked Dianna about the Girl Scouts' butterfly project; Dianna reported that it is in the works.

NEW BUSINESS

Barbara reported that Bruce Ryno came to the Texier House on March 10 and helped her to identify pictures of old houses. He's willing to come back and work on identifying houses again.

Barbara received a call from the Echoes Sentinel requesting information on our Ice Tong Display. She responded to all the questions and the article was in last week's Echoes-Sentinel.

Barbara, Betty Jean and Betse bought two wreaths for the back door of the Texier House.

Barbara advised the group that posters were found during one of the work sessions. The Committee thinks they are from WWI. Barbara, Betty Jean, and Betse are going to go to the frame shop to find out the cost of getting them mounted and possibly framed.

Betse talked to the Committee about a temporary WWII memorial exhibit. She is looking for a 48 star flag; Barbara thinks that she can locate one. Betse would like someone to draw a picture of a window and put the flag in the window with the names of the WWII veterans from Watchung in the window. L. Stahl volunteered to order a 24" x 18" poster of Iwo Jima and also frame the poster.

Scheduling for the Texier House is as follows:

March 28 – the day of the Easter Egg Hunt – 11:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. – all Committee members who can attend.

April 19 – Betse and Lynn S.

The Committee will continue to have work sessions on Tuesdays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for the rest of the month and during April.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Submitted by
Lynn Stahl
Interim Secretary