

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE
Strategic Plan -2015

VISION/MISSION STATEMENT

In our vision, the Historical Committee will preserve and protect the history of the Borough of Watchung. The Committee shall maintain the Texier House as a local museum containing all artifacts and material pertaining to the history of the Borough of Watchung. The Committee shall be dedicated to the maintenance of an accurate history of the Borough and seek to document all information collected. The Historical Committee shall gather current items of future interest and catalog and store such items for the future. The Committee shall provide a yearly summary of Borough activities to provide an ongoing and accurate history for the future. The Committee will conduct programs as necessary to educate citizens on the colorful history of this area and to encourage resident participation. The Committee will seek to maintain high interest in historic homes and sites in the Borough to preserve our heritage.

Goals and Objectives – 2015

HIGH PRIORITY

Maintain the Texier House as a local museum containing all artifacts and material pertaining to the history of the Borough of Watchung displayed for the community to enjoy, including the following new initiatives:

1. The exterior of the Texier House needs to be painted. The current paint is peeling and is starting to look unsightly. It is also important that the roof gutters are cleaned and working properly.
2. The Committee is working on a design proposal for an Ice Harvesting Sculpture to be placed at Watchung or Best Lake to commemorate historical commerce.
3. An exhibition about Watchung Schools is desired. Evaluate existing exhibitions for enhancement, improvement, replacement and rotation.
4. Research recent Civil War acquisitions for overall historical significance and appropriate display.
5. Determine appropriate display for empty Eaton Room Case.
6. Develop guidelines for the tours of the Museum and train volunteer docents to assist the Committee.

7. Continue to sort and organize historical materials that have not been yet been inventoried or stored properly.
8. Establish relationships with local school and youth groups for tours and visits.
9. Conduct small scale public events such as teas, special tours, holiday themed events, etc. and invite targeted groups. Invite other local historical groups for tours and special events.
10. Implement the recommendations made by the CAPES evaluation within our budget:
(This goal will take several years to complete.)
 - Create and implement key administrative policies to include a Collection Policy, Deed of Gift Form, and Appraisal Guidelines.
 - Create and maintain accession records for donations.
 - Develop a disaster plan in cooperation with OEM.
 - Continue the process of inventories/descriptions of all holdings.
 - Continue with the Excel spreadsheets already developed and decide format to list, organize, and track all items in the collections.
 - Begin the process of digitizing all holdings. Where possible, utilize copies for display while preserving the originals.
11. Complete second phase of the video recording information gathered from long-time resident and officials of the Borough.

12. Contact colleges to determine if there are students in library science or other majors that could assist us in setting up more displays in the museum and organizing the material.

ON-GOING

1. Continue to meet with other Historical Committees from other towns to get ideas about showcasing and organizing the collection.
2. Utilize the experience and expertise of others in the community to assist in this planning and implementing.
3. Examine external support for government and corporate grants.
4. Monitor the budget and report at all meeting of the Committee.
5. Keep an accurate record of the sale of all fund raising items.
6. Collect and organize newspaper and magazine clippings, record events that occur in Watchung in 2015 and create a scrapbook of such material. An introductory page of the year's Highlights will be developed.
7. Continue fund raising efforts to include the note cards, Watchung Throws, publications and other items as determined by the Committee.
Attend Historical Workshops sponsored by the state and county historical organizations to gain information to improve the functions of the Committee.
8. Continue to photograph appropriate events in the Borough and document major changes in landscape.
9. Continue to collect any and all information pertaining to the History of Watchung. Monitor on-line sources for historical material.

LONGER-TERM GOALS

1. Recreate the narrative to the program on the history of Watchung
2. Review and evaluate the old slides and determine if they could be used in a Power Point presentation about the history of Watchung.

3. Develop a script and program that can be used by all volunteers for programs and tours.
4. Document the origins of the names of the streets in the Borough.
5. Utilize information gathered to regularly publish and disseminate articles about Watchung, including anecdotes and "Did you Know" type articles.
6. Explore programs to increase visibility and the image of the Historic Committee, i.e. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, other community groups.
7. Explore additional fund-raising projects and grants.
8. Research the role of Watchung in all aspects of the Revolutionary War to determine if there is any documented evidence of participation in the Revolution. Search for artifacts that might prove the presence of troops, etc.
9. Research Watchung history that may be in the archives of Warren, North Plainfield and Plainfield.
10. Explore the preservation of historic sites in Watchung.

Approved at the Historical Committee Meeting of February 11, 2015.