

Historical Committee  
Minutes of the January 13, 2016 Meeting

Attendance: D. Addario, B.Aldrich, L. Franklin, R. Stomber, B. Titus, and D. Mobus, Liaison. Absent: B. Diem, T. Schaefer, L. Stahl

Presiding: B. Aldrich, Vice Chairperson

The meeting was called to order at 7:19 PM. With one member vacancy, the quorum is 5 so a quorum was declared.

The minutes of the December 9, 2015 meeting were approved with two corrections. Page 1 under Chairperson's report, it was Barbara and Betty Jean who put the lettering on the sign and on page 2, second paragraph, second sentence – awkward wording to be revised. B. Titus questioned the Tea listed in April for the Senior Group – if they come at 11:00 AM, aren't we serving sandwiches, not just dessert? The answer is that the group will eat at lunch at their meeting at 11:00 and will come here for a tour and dessert.

**CHAIRPERSONS REPORT – B. Aldrich**

New Members to Fill Vacancies:

Tracee Schaefer has been appointed to the Committee and she is enthusiastic about joining us. Unfortunately her husband is ill and she is unable to attend this evening. We are not sure if Chris Vander Fliet was appointed yet since it was not announced at the re-organization meeting of the Borough. D. Mobus reported that Chris has been appointed and he has accepted and it will be announced at a Council Meeting soon.

Oath of Allegiance Forms

All members received an Oath of Allegiance form, plus a membership list and meeting dates in a mailing from the Borough. Forms were collected and one member will make sure the form gets to Borough Hall.

Status of Sign

The sign for the back is in the works but time frame is unknown. Barbara will be following up.

Annual Report

Barbara and Diddy are working on it and hope to have it for the next meeting.

Christmas Tree

The tree has been taken down and is waiting for "muscle" to get in in the box and upstairs.

**FINANCIAL MANAGER'S REPORT – L.Franklin**

Current Balance in Watchung Community Foundation:	\$14,819.56
Current Balance in Historical Budget Borough Account:	5,615.22

Expenses: Several members were reimbursed for various expenses and the expenses for the sign and the monument plaque are encumbered (promised to be paid) and will come out of the 2015 budget account, which will bring us close to using the \$5,615.22 in our Borough Budget.

Donations: \$15 from the sale of one book

### **LIAISON'S REPORT – D. Mobus**

He spoke to Tom Herits, the engineer, about the lighting and ceiling project. Mr. Herits needs to get two more quotes and he will then present them to Mr. Atkins for action to get this project moving.

Glen Le Boef from the Civil War Reenactment Group has contacted the Council and still wants to have two "Confederate soldiers" stand at the circle on February 12 with a sign saying, "Happy Birthday Mr. Lincoln." (At the last meeting of Historical, the Committee decided that we did not want to participate in this.) The Council looks favorably on this, but wanted to know what objections the Historical Committee had. It was explained that we had no objection to it; we just did not want to be involved with it; getting permits, insurance, publicity, firewood, etc. Dave said that Borough Hall will take care of all of that. The question about bathroom use was brought up – will they want to use Texier House for a bathroom? There are some issues with the new job method, etc. We can close and lock the door to the rest of the Museum but they need access to the foyer if they want the bathroom. Dave will report back on all this.

Dave asked if cleaning was still a problem since he saw the emails going around about cleaning. Lynn F. reported that not only are the cleaning people not signing the book that they did the cleaning, they are not doing the cleaning at all! It is supposed to be that the cleaning is to be done the Friday before we are open (first and third Sundays of the month). It is not happening. Lynn F. had made out a cleaning schedule through 2016 and a copy was given to Dave. He will follow up.

Shelini Parikh wants *Before and After* pictures for an article she is doing for the Borough Newsletter. We have plenty of material for her. Betty Jean will follow up on this.

Betty Jean reported that Sue Tucker wanted to come and get some of her belongings that she believes are still in the Texier House. She was supposed to call, and make arrangements to meet, but did not contact anyone. The Committee asked Dave to call her and tell her that there will be members at the Texier House this Sunday from 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM, Tuesday, 1/19/16 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM and if those hours are not convenient to contact Barbara or Betty Jean to arrange a time.

### **OTHER REPORTS**

#### SCCHC (Somerset County Cultural and Heritage Committee)

Lynn F. could not attend this month's meeting because they changed the meeting date to tonight. However, someone is taking notes for her and she will report next month. She reminded the Committee that we need to make a decision soon about our participation in the fall Somerset County Weekend Journey. This needs to be an agenda item at the next meeting.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### Texier House Computer

Lynn F. followed up on the Texier computer and the IT person will load the appropriate programs. (There is no word processing, spread sheet, etc. loaded on the computer.)

### Iraq Veteran

Lynn F. became aware of Jorge Albert who lives in Watchung and was in the Iraq War. She followed up and found that when he signed up and went into the service he lived in Perth Amboy. Therefore, he does not meet our criteria for having his name on the monument. He works at Huston Lumber and had attended the Veteran's Day Ceremony. Lynn made him aware of the Somerset County Commemorative Medal that he is qualified to have. He currently lives on Hillcrest Road and volunteered his assistance if we needed anything at Huston Lumber.

### Festival of Trees

Betse purchased two ornaments that she thinks will be appropriate for our Tree next Christmas at the Festival of Trees. The Committee will start a box of items and a discussion of the theme and what we want to do and it should be an agenda item at a meeting soon.

### Sandwich Sign

The sandwich sign is supposed to be put out and taken in by Public Works on a set schedule (put out on the Monday before the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday and taken back on the Monday after). Rick asked if that schedule was working because he took it in himself once when he noted it still out. Betty Jean will check on this and Rick asked members to keep an eye on it when we go around the circle. It is a cumbersome sign and too much for most of the female members to handle alone.

### Collections Policy Forms

Rick reminded members that items donated need to have a Collections form filled out. He will follow up on one for the antique skates donated by Sue Tucker.

### Member List for 2016

Diddy circulated a revised membership list – there were a few corrections. She will correct, add Chris Vander Fliet and circulate it.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Officers and Assignments for 2016

Betty Jean asked for nominations for officers for 2016. Lynn F. nominated Barbara Diem for Chairperson and Betty Jean Aldrich for Vice Chairperson. It was seconded by B. Titus and the vote was unanimous.

Lynn F. nominated Lynn Stahl for interim Secretary, seconded by B. Titus and the vote was unanimous.

The Committee agreed on the following work assignments and/or committees:

Photographer – B. Titus  
 Yearly Clippings and Scrapbook – B.J. Aldrich and B. Titus  
 Bylaws, Organizational Document – D. Addario  
 Strategic Plan – R. Stomber, D. Addario

There was a brief discussion about the Strategic Plan for 2016. It is believed that only a few changes will be needed from the 2015 plan. Diddy suggested that in the fall we do another SWOT analysis for validation.

### The Town Planner Calendar

Lynn F. brought The Town Planner Calendar that was mailed to every resident in Watchung, Warren and Green brook. It contains useful information about community activities. She noted that 58% of the pictures are of Watchung. She also noted that The Tewksbury Historical group holds a craft sale right before Christmas as a fund raiser. There was discussion that this might be a good idea for us to sell some of our items the weekend after Thanksgiving. There should be more discussion at another meeting.

### Borough Newsletter

The deadline for the next newsletter is February 14, 2016. Betty Jean and Barbara will write an article.

### Cover for Museum Openings

January 17 – B. Titus, B. Diem  
 February 7 – D. Addario, R. Stomber  
 February 21 – Lynn F. B. Titus

Diddy asked if we had enough of the Self Tour sheets and we will check. It was generally agreed that people like having the guide. Diddy asked for members to make suggestions for improving the guide.

### Work Sessions

Tuesday, 1/19/16 – 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM  
 Tuesday, 1/26/16 - 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM  
 Tuesday, 2/9/16 – 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM  
 Tuesday, 2/16/16 - 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM  
 Tuesday 2/23/16 - 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

The meeting was adjourned at: 8:30 PM

Submitted by: D. Addario, Substitute Secretary for L. Stahl.

**NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2016, TEXIER HOUSE, 7:00 PM**