

Historical Committee  
Minutes of the February 10, 2016 Meeting

Attendance: B. Diem, B. Aldrich, L. Franklin, B. Titus, D. Addario, L. Stahl,  
D. Mobus, Liaison

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

The minutes of the January 13, meeting were approved.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Barbara reported that she talked to Chris about interviewing Spencer Kipe. They haven't set up a date for the interview yet.

Barbara and Betty Jean went to talk to Maria about the cleaning service to go over the dates for the cleaners. Dave Mobus advised the committee that they're looking into the possibility of getting a new cleaning service.

Barbara mentioned the items belonging to Sue. Sue contacted Barbara and advised her she would come to pick up her items, but she has not picked them up yet.

Barbara mentioned that we shouldn't discuss business at our Work Sessions. We should wait and discuss business at our regularly scheduled meetings.

Diddy asked who is answering the phone at the Texier House and retrieving messages off of the answering machine. The group discussed the issue and agreed that we should have the calls forwarded to Borough Hall since we are not always at the Texier House to answer calls and retrieve messages in a timely fashion.

Barbara got a message from John Smack offering the Committee ice tongs that he has. Barbara left a message for him advising that we would like them. She hasn't heard back from him yet.

Barbara and Diddy are working on the Annual Report.

Barbara and Betty Jean are working on the Newsletter; Feb. 14, 2016 is the deadline for submissions.

FINANCIAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Lynn Franklin reported that there are no new financials for this month.

LIAISON'S REPORT

Dave Mobus reported about the stipend for Chris Vander Fliet (\$550), Bobbie Adams (\$150) and Brian (\$300), for a total of \$1000. Dave will call Bill Hance to request that he prepare the checks.

Dave talked about the lighting and ceiling tiles for the Texier House. He informed the Committee that it was discussed at the Council Meeting. Tom Herits will get another estimate for the project. Dave will keep us informed as to the status of the project.

There was a discussion about the lock system. Dave advised the Committee that the Council said it's working very well. Dave reminded the Council about the problems that the Historic Committee is encountering with the new lock system since there is no way to leave the door unlocked when we are inside in order to allow visitors to enter the building.

## NEW BUSINESS

Lynn F. reported about the Feb. 3, 2016 Somerset County Cultural and Heritage Committee Meeting. She advised the group that there is a beautiful exhibit there now. This coming month the senior citizens will do a show. Tom is working on a project of scanning about 400 slides to create maps. There will be a Teen Arts Festival—anyone who wants to volunteer has to be fingerprinted and background checked and the information only stays in the computer for 60 days.

Texier House Openings – Betse reported that on Jan. 17, 2016, the Dunellen mayor and his wife visited. The Mayor's wife has purchased a house in Dunellen that they want to turn into a museum. She was interested and extremely impressed with how we have set up the Texier House.

Diddy reported that there were five visitors to the Texier House on Feb. 7. They loved the Museum.

Somerset County Award Project—Lynn F. and Lynn S. made copies of all of the paperwork to be submitted for the award application. Shelini has taken pictures of the blanket, the WWII exhibit, the 9/11 exhibit, O'Connor's exhibit, costumes from the legend of Watchung, the Media Room, the outside of the War Memorial and the Texier House. She will put all the pictures on a flash drive; once we have that, it will be mailed to Tom for submission.

## OLD BUSINESS

Barbara discussed the tea we're going to host for the seniors on April 13. The senior group will arrive at 11:00 a.m. and we will serve them sandwiches and dessert. The Committee will purchase the sandwiches and make the desserts. We'll have our regularly scheduled meeting that night.

Dave reported that the Lincoln's Birthday event of Glen LeBoeuf dressing as a confederate soldier has been cancelled due to another engagement that Glen has for that day.

Barbara advised the Committee that we need to decide if we'll participate in the Weekend Journey into the Past this year. The Committee took a vote, and it was decided that we will participate this year. Lynn S. reminded the Committee that we need to get more volunteers for that weekend since it involves a lot of coverage. Lynn F. will try to get us another banner for advertising the event.

Barbara spoke about the Festival of Trees- we need to decide on a theme for the tree. The Committee members should look at garage sales to find a Christmas tree for the event. The name to be entered for the event will be: "Watchung Historical Committee –Texier House Museum."

Strategic Plan for 2016 – Barbara talked about it and mentioned that Rick has volunteered to work on it.

The new entrance sign was discussed. It looks great, but it is not visible at night. The suggestion was made to put a light outside that would illuminate it. Lynn F. suggested that we add it to our budget for next year. The Committee agreed.

Coverage for Texier House Openings:

February 21 – Betse and Lynn F.

March 6 – Lynn F. and Lynn S.

March 20 – Betse and Betty Jean

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Submitted by  
Lynn Stahl  
Interim Secretary