

Historical Committee
Minutes of the June 11, 2014 Meeting

Attendance: B. Diem, B. Titus, L. Franklin, S. Tucker, B. Aldrich, R. Stomber, L. Stahl.

Presiding: S. Tucker, Chairperson. The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

The minutes of the May 12, 2014 meeting were approved.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – S. Tucker

Sue reported about Justin's project which has to be done by the end of June. Justin took pictures of the old houses and write ups of the houses have to be done; there will be two versions, one will be a brief description to go on the wall at the Texier House. Sue bought frames at A.C. Moore. The kitchen can hold 18 frames so we have to be selective as to what gets hung. Sue tracked down David Page and the CDs. Have to go through the list and figure out the top 18 photos. Other part of the art project is businesses and landmarks. Originally allowed \$500 budget for project; will cost \$550 for frames. The suggestion was made to not do the whole thing. All photos are going into drop box. We currently have half of what we need for frames. As far as the book goes, we have to decide what level of detail we want. Prototype of book is probably \$100 on something like Snap fish. Sue talked about permission being needed to be given for each picture of the houses, businesses, etc. and then run by Al Cruz, the Township Attorney. The Committee will have to do this.

Chris' Project-Finished interviewing everyone except for Henry Long. The editing is taking place; however, he's having some trouble getting Bobby Adams to focus on this. Sue has talked to Dianna about offering Bobby a stipend. Lynn Franklin suggested investigating the company that does the town website as an alternative.

The Committee was brainstorming on how to solve the problem of getting the job done. Lynn Franklin suggested we ask Chris and Bobby what subjects they want to do. Rick suggested they pick what they can get done by Sept. 1st. We all voted in favor of talking to the Council about a stipend for both Chris and Bobby. Rick suggested that we need to have a proposal which states exactly what Chris and Bobby would be agreeing to do and the cost of the project.

Maddie's Project-Sue has collected old class pictures to start a notebook of pictures. They have a budget of a few hundred dollars. Barbara Hoffman and Jeanne Nunn have been interviewed by Maddie.

FINANCIAL MANAGER'S REPORT-L. Franklin

The current balance is \$13,947.64. The budget the borough has for us is \$422.75. We received a donation of \$500 from Fanwood Crushed Stone. Bill and Georgia Nehls made a donation and Lynn has sent them a thank you note. The cost of archival expenses is \$457.95 which comes from the Borough budget. The sleeves will be coming. The \$23.05 for the ledger will come out of the Borough budget.

There was some mail in our mailbox and various pieces of mail were distributed by Lynn.

Rod Corner e-mailed the borough with some historical questions. Michelle DeRocco will research this for him.

L. Franklin has been trying to get names for Veteran's Day. For future reference, during the Memorial Day celebration, we used 14 cups of regular coffee and 7 cups of decaf coffee.

Lynn has made up a thank you letter and will add L. Stahl's name.

Somerset County Cultural Heritage Commission—update of houses --nothing different than Lynn previously reported.

Indigenous Artists—they're trying to reach out; put in ads and didn't get any response.

June 30th – Conversations About Creative Economy 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. free workshop

August 6th, 7th, 8th - 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. - 4H Fair

Bound Brook is setting up a Historical Commission.

LIAISON'S REPORT-L. Stahl read Dianna's report:

E-Mail Protocol- Dianna thinks that it is beneficial to change the subject header when expressing new ideas or subjects in e-mails.

Monthly Meeting Duration-two hours should be enough time to get our work done. Dianna will share a form that the Girl Scouts Heart of NJ uses as an example.

In-Take Protocol, Accession and Donation Forms-Dianna distributed forms to some of the members at a work session. She would like this information to be shared with the rest of the committee (location of forms, procedure and where the files are located).

Did we purchase a ledger? Yes, we now have a ledger.

Rick, do we have an Accession Plan written yet?

Update the Web Page-this can be done any time by sending your information to Michelle DeRocco. You can also delete old information. You can also add pictures.

Dianna wanted to thank the Committee members for all of their continued hard work.

OLD BUSINESS

The cabinets in the kitchen were hung by the DPW. Rick will put up the lights with velcro. The committee noted that Memorial Day worked out very well.

Barbara told us that Ginny Cooper called her and recommended that we honor her husband (he was at Normandy). Phil Whiting could be honored in the future as well as Dick Wellbrock.

Rick looked at the Brooklyn Historical Society. He talked about an accession ledger; the purpose is to show you have clear title to the item donated and, therefore, own it. Rick advised that if something doesn't have value it doesn't need to be accessioned, but we might want to write in in the Ledger Book. He advised that we don't want to have a formal accession plan for everything we receive. Once you decide to accession something, you have an obligation to keep it. An item to be kept should have historical value and value to the community.

We're all in favor of talking to the Council about stipends for both Chris and Bobby. Rick advised that we need to have a proposal that details the scope of the work the payment.

Maddie's Project-Sue has collected old class pictures to start a notebook of pictures. They have a budget of a few hundred dollars. Barbara Hoffman and Jeanne Nunn have been interviewed.

NEW BUSINESS

Sue spoke to Brian LeBoeuf and invited him to the Texier House. He has Bobby Thomson items that he may donate to the Texier House.

L. Franklin suggested that we look over the Vision/Mission Statement and discuss it at the next meeting.

Betse and Betty Jean asked about what to do with the pictures for the scrapbook. Sue said to ask Cindy Scalera. Rick said to find an archival scrapbook. B. Titus and B. Aldrich can buy a scrapbook and then get reimbursed.

Dianna e-mailed Sue about flood insurance. It was decided that we keep the flood insurance the same as it was previously.

The Committee looked at the list for Watchung History Day 2014. It will be 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Sept. 27th. The Committee agreed on the following activities for History Day:

Museum open with knowledgeable docents.

Civil War Reenactment- they asked for permission to be open to the public the night before

Coordinated concert-David Kincaid at Arts Center at night. Sue mentioned that her brother and Joe Higgins play folk music. She asked them if they would perform and they said they would.

Vintage Ice Cream Truck

Old Fire Truck

Ralph's Tractor

Old tools Display

Justin signing, selling book—if book is done we can have copies for sale

Girl Scout Craft or something re school project

Boy Scouts- hot dogs and apple crisp (will ask Cub Scouts to handle)

Rescue Squad on Call

Program on historic folk music- David Kincaid

Lynn Franklin suggested antique games for kids to play. Sue mentioned there are authors in town such as Milt Rosco, Diane Good. Lynn F. will check with Bill re ice cream truck in regards to whether that will be paid for by a purchase order or other means. The Committee spent money in the past for the banner, signs for parking; we can probably re-use all of these by just changing the dates. Sue talked about possible displays. Betty Jean said that we should add the church to the list. Barbara got all the information about the Catholic Church. The Committee talked about the Sept. 11th display of the piece given by the Ingrassias family. It was mentioned that Elizabeth Wano, who lived in Watchung for a few months, died on Sept. 11th also. We have to work on the Sept. 11th display. Sue advised that we have a blank wall in the government room so we could put a display there.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Submitted by

Lynn Stahl

Interim Secretary

NEXT MEETING: July 9, 2014