

Historical Committee  
Minutes of the May 8, 2013 Meeting

Attendance: D. Addario, B. Aldrich, B. Diem, S. Feibush, R. Stomber, B. Titus, S. Tucker and Liaison D. Beck-Clemens. Absent: B. Black, E. Stomber

Presiding: B. Diem Chairperson

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM

The minutes of the April 10, 2013 meeting were approved as circulated.

**CHAIRPERSONS REPORT – B. Diem**

Stained Glass Installation

The restored stained glass from the Castle was installed on Saturday. It looks wonderful and the Committee is very pleased with the way it turned out. The crest is pictured in the Moldenke book and we will try to research some more about the meaning behind the symbols in the crest. There are a few hairline cracks in some of the pieces of glass which were left to add character and authenticity.

Our original idea was to use some of the glass in the glass door. However, a lot of the surrounding glass had to be used to replace some of the damaged pieces around the crest and he does not believe the door is an appropriate place for the rest of the glass. After some discussion, the Committee decided not to put the rest of the glass in the door. The glass door is usually open anyway, and we will see if that door can be removed since it is in the way and uses up most of the wall on the right of the foyer.

The trim around the glass needs to be installed and the glass person felt it was better to let a carpenter do that. Roger Tucker will finish it off for us.

It is also apparent that we need track lighting both in front of and behind the stained glass as they had to do at Wilson Memorial Church.

Senior Group Material

Ruth Allen wanted to know if we wanted any of the old materials from the Senior Group. They need to get their materials out of the Library. Betse and Barbara will set up a time to look at the materials.

Garden Club Request

The Garden Club had requested that we look at their “annual books” for incorporating into our collection. Dianna suggested that they are welcome to

donate what they would think is a part of the history of the town, but at this time, we cannot store their material.

### CAPES

We were told that we would have a site visit in May and we prepared questions which we submitted. We are still waiting to hear from CAPES. Diddy will email the coordinator.

### Memorial Day

Ralph Diem and Gerry Mobus were selected as veterans to honor. The ceremony will be held on May 27, 2013 at 9:00 AM at the Texier House next to the Veteran's Monument.

### Need for thank you notes, C. Eaton, P. Davis, and R. Adams

Barbara asked Diddy to send thank you notes to these persons for materials and books donated

### **LIAISON'S REPORT – D. Beck- Clemens**

This is the first meeting Liaison Clemens has attended although she attended one of our work groups. She stated that she is delighted to be the liaison to Historic and that she was a history major and has experience being a museum docent, so she is doubly pleased to be with us. She gave the report that Diddy sent her for the last Council Meeting and the Echoes reporter took it almost word for word and it was in last week's paper.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### Diorama Restoration – M. Ciccollello

The top of the diorama has been painted, along with the outside of the diorama itself. The autumn scene is finished. She is working on the lighting for the castle. The snow has been repainted on the castle side. An outhouse has been ordered for one of the openings and she will create a backdrop and ground for it. After the top is attached, she will finish the edges on the winter scene and the spring scene. The shrubs have been removed from the mountain and replaced and forsythia bushes added. The inside frame is painted but they will be covered with lightweight poster board so they are not visible. The outside board surrounding the diorama will be painted but that will be taken one step at a time when it is decided what we want to add, i.e., the Watchung seal, other copy, etc. She plans to cut and glue the pink builder's insulation to make a mountain out of it so the diorama can sit on it. A photo will be added to the other opening.

The Committee discussed a selection of a picture for the one end. Some suggestions were the falls, the old windmill ice cream store on Rt. 22 and a picture of the old Watchung sign.

(It was determined that the one remaining original Watchung sign is in use and is across from Wilson Memorial Church on Valley Road.)

We still have the problem of what to put the diorama on. The original diorama was high, so that the top really did not have to be finished. And, where the original diorama was displayed, the legs broke under the pressure. The higher the level, the less stable it will be. Rick suggested putting it on a block. Sue T. had explored many suitable tables on Craig's list and EBay, but they are all low. It was decided to try and get Mary, Roger and a few members of the Committee to get together and try to figure this all out.

Copy needs to be written about the selections made and a "map or guide" to the diorama needs to be developed.

#### Purchase of Framed Boards for Displays – R. Stomber

The Committee discussed whether or not we are ready to purchase some framed boards for use on the walls. Mayor Pote had recommended that we have these supplies on hand when we are ready to do the displays. Much discussion ensued.

The first wall that will probably use these boards is for the sports display and D. Beck-Clemens felt we had time to decide how big, etc. She felt we were doing the right thing by waiting for the reaction of the CAPES to our collection. Although they will evaluate only paper documents, they will have advice on where to go for assistance with the displays.

#### Eagle Scout Project Progress – S. Tucker

Walter is in the research phase of his project. Right now he is getting through his finals and all of the activities that go with the end of the school year. He will focus full time on the project once school is out. This is only his junior year so he has a lot of time.

#### Report from Principles of Archival Management Workshop

The workshop was very worthwhile. The content was, once again, geared for professional research archivists and librarians but we came away with a good understanding of what we need to do. We need a collection policy for the "acquisition" phase of placing items in a collection. It was also clear that we should have some of our members going to the next one, but it is at a bad time. Members will think about whether or not they can go to the next one.

Sue F. recommended that we visit Grover Cleveland Birthplace Museum in Caldwell. She believes this is more what we are trying to set up. Members will make plans.

### 2013 Strategic Plan

The Committee reviewed the Strategic Plan to see how we are progressing on some of our goals. We are generally on target. The Committee discussed the importance of starting the oral history before some of our elders are no longer available. S. Tucker will contact someone she knows who might be able to help us with this. D. Beck-Clemens also felt this was something we should proceed with right away.

### Categories

S. Tucker asked if we knew where we had the list of categories that we had developed. Diddy will try to find them in the minutes, but we probably can recreate them if we have to.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Storage of Farm and Large Outdoor Artifacts.

B. Diem suggested that we ask for an overhang on one side of the carriage house to display outside artifacts. D. Beck-Clemens stated that she will discuss this with Public Works – they are having a shed added by the Public Works Building. Perhaps some of the artifacts will fit in the carriage house.

### Purchase of Additional Copies of the Castle and Hillcrest Road Books.

There continues to be calls about the Castle and Hillcrest Road books. We have been referring the inquiry to the authors. Barbara asked the Committee if it would be a good idea to have some copies on hand. After discussion it was decided to purchase ten of each and to ask about a discount for multiple copies.

### Discussion about Setting up the Museum and Where to put artifacts.

The Committee discussed how to start displaying artifacts. There were many suggestions. There was general agreement that we should select one or two of our categories, decide where they should be placed and just get started. It was suggested that the foyer could be one place to start with all the material we have on the Texier House be placed there. Since the stained glass is installed, the Castle might be the second category. It was suggested that we have unifying colors, for example, have all picture frames one color so that if we move them it

will not create a problem. Sue T. thought that we still should map out where we think all categories should go.

R. Stomber will look into track lighting for the stained glass window.

### Work Sessions

The following work sessions were scheduled:

Thursday May 30, 2013, 10:00 AM – Texier House

Wednesday June 5, 2013, 10:00 AM – Texier House

Wednesday, June 12, 2013, 6:30 PM – Texier House. (Our regular meeting night.) Betse will get pizza and take care of beverages. Diddy will bring cookies for dessert. After a brief business meeting, we will get to work on the artifacts. (This is to give the working members a chance to work on the artifacts.)

### Costs Involved in Restoring Diorama

Sue T. thought it would be a good idea for the Committee to approve the minor costs involved in completing the restoration of the diorama. It was moved and seconded to approve the costs of restoring the diorama. The motion was approved. All expenses are to be submitted to the Chairperson.

The meeting was adjourned at: 9:30 PM.

Submitted by:

Dorothy Addario  
Secretary

**NEXT MEETING: JUNE 12, 2013 – 6:30 PM – A WORKING SESSION, PIZZA PROVIDED.**