

Minutes 5/12/2/014

Meeting called to order. Minutes approved.

Staffing for May events: Rick will staff the borough picnic from 12 to 3pm on May 17. Table will be next to Italian ice table so Sue can also assist. Museum will not be open.

Barbara and Lynn will staff the Museum from 2 to 4pm, May 18.

Memorial Day Staffing – Museum will be open after Memorial Day Ceremony, any committee members at event will staff.

Museum will also be open extra hours on June 1, from 12-4 p.m. with invitation to WHRHS alumni promoted at the May 31 WHRHS All Grade Reunion at Forest Lodge. Sue, Barbara, Betse and any committee members who wish to join them will staff it.

Financial Manager's Report:

Archival supplies came to \$3509.98 . Only have \$880 until new budget approved and takes affect. Budget approved for \$ to take effect. Community Fund has over \$13,000.

Any unexpected expenses will be funded from the Watchung Community Foundation. Larger purchases, such as shelving, require a purchase order. For small sudden purchases, the borough prefers that three members of the committee agree to the purchase. There will not be a petty cash fund.

An acquisitions policy is recommended to provide guidance for committee purchases and accepting donations. Dianna requested Rick review and edit one she provided. CFO for the borough will issue a letter of gift without appraising value. Committee would like a copy of such letters.

Donation envelope has been designed and will be reviewed for printing requirements.

Liaison's Report:

Web page is online including strategic report and annual report. Donation letter should also go on the webpage.

Dianna noted that the town attorney approved Deed of Gift form should be used rather than the one recommended by CAPES report. The Texier House will be recognized as an "official" museum by borough ordinance. Official business should be conducted during a monthly meeting or with a quorum, subsequently advising other members. Proposed operating budget for FY14 is \$9000.

Chairperson's report:

As part of her gold award, Madeleine Quinn is interviewing residents of note and will try to make up a quiz that people can fill out about Watchung memories that will be handed out at the table. She would like to consider a display with audio. Someone in town is willing to donate antique school desks for that display. Sue is working with Madeline, putting requests for class photos on a variety of facebook pages. Sue also purchased a collection of 7 Valley View yearbooks for that project, which turned out to have

belonged to teacher Wes Hodge. As we sort through photos for film and Eagle projects, we're also gathering photos and information about early schools for this project.

Eagle Scout Award: We must provide Justin with a completed list of the old houses? Sue and Barbara drove through town to compile a list of old homes. There are approximately 50 houses on the list, which may need to be reduced. We have few old photos of the homes though. Justin needs to start scanning photographs at home and will be working Saturday from home and will need to finish the project by the end of July.

The video project is being edited and interviews need to be concluded shortly.

Sue suggested that empty wall in Eaton Room could be used to recognize veterans.

The Memorial Day ceremony will honor Gregory Summers and others.

Recognition on the donor plaque is for cash only.

There should be additional exhibits installed by the next Watchung History Day in October. The program for next year needs to be developed. American Revolution, Watchung veterans, Lenape, Schools, Nature, Veterans, Boy and Girl Scouts, Churches etc. are all potential exhibition topics. Some topics may also be suitable for revolving exhibits, such as displays on certain roads or neighborhoods.

Committee's most immediate priorities are locating materials to assist with the film project and with the "Watchung Then and Now" Eagle Scout project. Both of these have significant time pressure. Sue and Barbara have had several work sessions with Justin and are assisting Chris VanderFleet with interviews and locating appropriate photos to be spliced into the film.

Sue purchased four glass plate negatives from 1900 taken by the prolific railroad photographer Willis Vail of Wetumpka Falls, Johnston Drive and Washington Rock. She's located a specialized photography studio that can set up special equipment to print from this very early but rare and high quality form of negative, but the cost is between \$100 and \$200 dollars, depending on print size. They would be useful as high quality early photos for inclusion in the Eagle Scout Project and displays. The committee decided not to incur the cost of developing them.

Lynn Franklin reported as liaison to Somerset County Cultural Commission.

There will be a water color exhibition April 14 through May 23 in Somerville.

Lynn distributed invitations to Somerset County Historic Preservation and History Recognition Awards Ceremony on May 21.

Somerset County Historic Preservation Grants – 9 awards for over \$1 million. Dianna is going to inquire whether the town works with a grant writer. According to archivists, most national grants require at last one full time staff person, which, since we're purely volunteer, eliminates us from submitting application.

Cultural History Preservation Program may be able to provide interns (undergraduate history majors) from Rutgers. Sue will follow up.

Ness property is being remediated through an escrow account from the most recent land owner.

Next Historical Committee meeting is set for Wed., June 11 at 7 p.m. Meeting adjourned.