

Historical Committee  
Minutes of the July 9, 2014 Meeting

Agenda  
7/17/14

Attendance: B. Diem, L. Franklin, B. Aldrich, R. Stomber, S. Tucker, D. Addario, L. Stahl, D. Beck-Clemens, Liaison, and Guest: V.Mott

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

The minutes of the June 11, 2014 meeting were approved.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – S. Tucker**

Sue reported that Justin's project is done. The book will be e-mailed to Sue. She will speak to Bruce Rhino about labeling of pictures. She asked Justin to hold up on labeling. Justin has created a photo archive and also has pictures of businesses in town. Sue says that with these pictures we have another major display that will cost about \$500 (the cost of frames) to complete. This display could be completed for Sept. She spoke about where we will put it. It was decided that it can go in the Media Room. Sue will ask Justin to print out the pictures for us.

Maddie's project is proceeding slowly, but she doesn't have a time limit so far.

Sue reported that Chris has pulled in Brian Ericson to work with him. He's currently working on Tony Addario's interview and has worked on Steve Pote's interview. Chris is managing the project. Chris is not working with Bobby anymore. As far as a timeframe goes, parts of it will be done by September. Dianna suggested giving him an honorarium when the project is done. The Committee members agreed.

Barbara asked about Henry Long. Marlene, his daughter, said he could be interviewed in July or August. We spoke about having a rotating veteran's exhibit. Lynn Franklin suggested that the idea of having a full time exhibit be put on hold for now. Sue also mentioned a rotating exhibit for Tibby Wotherspoon.

Members of the Herrick family visited the Texier House on Sun. They were the second owners of the castle. Kathy brought her sister from Germany. The family will put together some information for us.

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

L. Franklin reported that the sleeve protectors have been ordered but have not yet been received... The flags were put up around the property. Lynn bought 10 flags to be put in the ground. She noticed that today 6 or 8 flags are gone; possibly the DPW took them down to mow. Lynn will ask the DPW workers to retrieve them. The budget that the borough has for the Committee is \$7634.22. The money that was in the donations jar has been recorded; the flag downstairs came from fund and 2 blankets were sold. The current balance is \$14,062.54. Lynn reported that there was no Somerset County Cultural Heritage Meeting this month.

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

Dianna talked about the intake procedure and the ledger book. She thinks we should start making a list of what each person has contributed and put it in the ledger book. We need this for insurance purposes, etc. Sue raised the question of what is a loan and what is a gift. Rick advised that if the Texier House closes, who owns all the items. Dianna said the Borough would own everything. Barbara asked about the deed of gift for John Eaton. John doesn't want it the items back unless the Texier House closes.

Dianna passed out the Index for Policy and Procedure Manual Sheet. She would like a 3-ring binder for the Index for Policy and Procedure Manual (Draft). Dianna spoke about drop box. Sue was sent a CD of pages from Dave Page's book. Justin copied it onto DVDs. It was stated that in order to participate in drop box people have to be invited to join it. Dianna advised that drop box is a commercial corporation that can go out of business and then the pictures would be lost. Pictures could be stored on a USB port. Dianna asked who the gate keeper would be and suggested that Michelle DeRocco receive copies of everything. Dianna is trying to get things archived. The limit for drop box is 350 pictures at a cost of \$99 per year. It was suggested that Shelini Parikh will handle pictures. Diddy suggested a set of by-laws and suggested we have a subcommittee to work on the by-laws. Dianna will check with other towns for their by-laws.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Rick passed out the Collections Policy for 2014. If using non-public funds, does the borough still have control? Any purchase has to be approved. Dianna will get a threshold. Diddy said most of what we need to buy is not delineated in budget. What can we buy through purchase orders? It was noted that 6 members out of 9 is a quorum. Rick suggested that we start accession plan with new items.

Lynn Franklin asked if Accession Plan has to be approved by Al Cruz; Dianna suggested we wait until it is finalized to get his approval.

We spoke about having adjunct members. Diddy suggested possibly affiliates (similar to what the Rescue Squad has).

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Sue said there may be several items in the Eaton basement that may be given to us; such as ice cutting saws. Gail has mentioned to Sue to let her know if she sees items for Texier House. Sue will try to arrange a tour for us.

Lynn Franklin advised the Committee that when she was putting up flags around the property she observed the poor condition of the property such as the "Creeping Charlie" weed in the lawn, the flower beds need to be weeded and cleaned out, and the weeds need to be removed from the walks around the house. She suggested that the borough obtain estimates from Lawn Doctor or another service to get the weeds under control. At her house, Lynn has tried the natural way and advised that it doesn't work. She currently has Lawn Doctor and has been pleased with the results. She also mentioned that the lawn at Borough Hall might need to be sprayed for weeds. Also the poison ivy around the property needs to be evaluated. It is killing the cherry trees. Dianna will take this matter to the Borough Council.

Barbara mentioned that the wood carving that Katherine sent to us cannot be seen; she would like to see about getting non-glare glass for it or better lighting. Rick will try to get better lighting for it.

Lynn Franklin reported that there was no mail in the mailbox. She reported that the previous time we had mail in the mailbox relating to looking for items for the Fall/Winter Newsletter and that the deadline is August 31<sup>st</sup>. She would like to put in a blurb about asking for Veterans and ask that they call Barbara or her with information. Sue would like to put in a mention of Justin's project. Sue will also put in about Watchung History Day.

Dianna spoke about our webpage on the Watchung website. Sue advised us that she rewrote the write-up and updated our portion of the website. She included a save the date for Watchung History Day.

Barbara advised us that we're all out of the Moldenke book; so she will order some more.

Sue would like to set up some kind of event for people who have donated \$1000 . She would like to also invite individuals who are allowing us to use pictures of their houses. The Committee agreed that we would work on this after Watchung History Day.

Sue wants to get Watchung History Day organized before she leaves on vacation. She will be away from Sept, 2 to Sept. 14. Sue advised us that Joan Plasner is on board for Watchung Arts Center. Sue will work on a booklet regarding volunteerism in town. The Rescue Squad will be at Watchung History Day. Diddy will take care of arranging for that.

Barbara and Betty Jean are working on the Ingrassias display and it's just about done. They would like a picture of Elizabeth Honor Waino to add to the display.

The Committee will have work groups on Tuesday, July 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. and also July 22 at 10:00 a.m. Watchung History Day details will be worked on at the July 22 work group.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Submitted by  
Lynn Stahl  
Interim Secretary

**NEXT MEETING:** August 13, 2014