

Historical Committee  
Minutes of the November 13, 2013

Attendance: D. Addario, B. Aldrich, B. Black, B. Diem, S. Feibush, R. Stomber, B. Titus, S. Tucker and D. Beck-Clemens, Council Liaison. Absent E. Stomber.  
Also attending: Justin Scalera, Cindy Scalera

Presiding: B. Diem Chairperson.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM

**The regular order of business was changed to allow for Justin Scalera to present his proposed Eagle Scout Project and because Sue Tucker had another Borough Meeting.**

Justin Scalera and Sue Tucker to discuss Eagle Scout Project

Justin Scalera is working on his Eagle Scout designation. Justin is well known in the community and he has authored a book about Hurricane Sandy with magnificent pictures. This book has been very well received and raised funds for hard hit Sandy areas. He would like to create an Eagle Scout Project with the Historical Committee documenting buildings, places, etc. for a "Now and Then" project. He would like to publish a book and also have this "old and new Watchung" on a wall at the Texier Museum. This would involve organizing the whole project, delegating and providing leadership to assistants, etc. As a first step, he needs the approval of the Historical Committee.

The Historical Committee enthusiastically endorsed this project. The Historical Committee has material that Justin can use and this is a project that the Committee had hoped to achieve in the near future. In fact, there is so much material in desperate need of organizing and preserving that it is probably more than one Eagle Scout Project! The Committee approved \$500 for the support for this project.

Justin needs a letter from the Chairperson of the Committee as soon as possible. Sue Tucker will provide the information and Barbara and Diddy will get the letter out as soon as possible.

The Committee was reminded that Justin will have a book signing at the Library on Tuesday, November 19, at 7:30 PM. All proceeds to go to Sandy recovery.0

Christmas Decorations at the Texier House – S. Tucker

Sue suggested that we decorate two trees for the holidays and expand the time the Museum is open. She suggested one tree to be an authentic German feather tree with antique German ornaments. This would be placed in the Community Room.

The second tree in the Eaton room could have a patriotic theme. The Committee agreed that this was feasible. It was also agreed that the Museum should be open on the day of the Tree of Lights from noon to 5:00 PM. Since our other efforts of piggy backing on other town events have been successful, this may also work. There was a brief discussion about coverage of the museum and it was agreed that we can reach out to other volunteers since some of our members are involved with the Tree of Lights. Betty Jean and Barbara thought they could be available for part of that day, but not all.

#### Watchung Throws – S. Tucker

The Watchung Throws are still available. The minimum order must be for 36 throws. Up to 120 throws costs \$30 each plus postage. If this is something we want to do before Christmas, they should be ordered promptly. The Committee decided that this is a project for next year, not before Christmas. A brief discussion was held about what to charge and it was tentatively agreed that we should sell them for \$50. In the meantime, we can get the word out on all the Facebook Watchung sites to assess interest. We should also take a picture of the throw and use that on the sites and the Mayor's Newsletter.

#### **The regular order of business continued.**

The Minutes of the October 9, 2013 Meeting were approved as circulated.

#### **CHAIRPERSONS REPORT – B. Diem**

##### CAPES Report

The CAPES evaluation report arrived a few days ago. All members received copies at this meeting and it will be discussed under New Business.

##### Council Meeting & Proclamation 10/10/13

Some members of the Historical Committee attended the Council Meeting on 10/10/13. The Council approved a proclamation about the History Day. The framed proclamation will hang at the Texier House.

##### Harvest Festival

The Texier House was open during the Harvest Festival and quite a few people came and those that came stayed for quite a while.

##### Museum Openings 10/26 and 11/6

Both Sundays were well attended.

## Budget Report

Barbara got the latest budget printout and we will discuss under Old Business.

## Meeting Schedule for 2014

The meeting dates for 2014 are as follows:

January 8	May 8	September 11
February 12	June 12	October 9
March 13	July 10	November 12
April 10	August 14	December 11

The Historical Committee usually does not meet in July and August, but meetings are listed in case they are needed. It was also agreed that we will start the meetings in 2014 at 7:00 PM instead of 7:30 PM.

## Question from Drake House

At the opening, we were asked by a representative from Drake House in Plainfield if Watchung was ever called "Washington Valley." Since none of our members had ever heard of this, our response was negative. However, Barbara, in looking through the book on Victorian NJ that was given to us, on page 105, she found a reference that showed that Valley Road was known as Washington Valley. Barbara will communicate that additional bit of information.

## German Bund in WW II

We had an inquiry from someone seeking information about a local German Bund. Barbara found some information and sent it to the person.

## 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Gettysburg Address

John Malchow called and wanted to know if we were going to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Gettysburg address. We had not planned anything. He will be having some of his students learn the Address and recite it. A suggestion was made to him to have his students go before the Council and recite the Address.

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

### Status of Donation Plaques

Dianna brought pictures of possible plaques. The Committee selected one and she will follow up. The Committee liked the idea of starting with a smaller one

and then adding on each side when necessary. She has been dealing with Crown Trophy which is in North Plainfield where Capitol Lighting used to be

### More Workers for the Committee

She suggested that we consider adding “helpers” to our Committee. It is clear we are going to need a number of people to help us run the Museum and perform all the restoration and preserving activities we need to do. They do not need to be officially appointed members of the Committee, but need to be willing to do certain things. For example, we are going to need docents to guide tours. We need to think of a name for this group, such as, Advisors, Volunteers, Friends, Affiliate, etc. Committee members could cite a number of people who have expressed willingness to help.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### Budget Review

B. Diem reviewed all the expenses listed on our budget to date. The Committee discussed and reviewed expenditures and B. Diem will follow up on a few issues that need clarifying. It looks as if we are very close to spending our entire budget for the year. There is a need for a Treasurer.

### Status of Thank you Notes from Opening – D. Addario

Diddy has sent a few out, and is slowly working on the rest.

### Veteran’s Day

The Veterans Day program was fabulous. Henry Long, WW II navigator, was honored. Henry received the Distinguished Flying Cross 55 years later from flying a top secret mission into Slovakia. Henry has agreed to be interviewed for our oral history.

### Deed of Gift and Incoming Loan Forms – D. Addario

Diddy had been working on some forms but the ones in the Appendix of the CAPES Report seem to be better. She will work on them for the next meeting.

### Status of Living History Project

Barbara will contact Sue T. to get this project going again. We need to get Henry Long, the three former Mayors and others who have already agreed to be interviewed.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Review of CAPES Report

Since most of the Committee had not seen the report until this meeting, a full discussion will take place at our next meeting. It appears to be very helpful and has ramifications for our budget priorities for next year and our Strategic Plan. Diddy will make sure the Mayor and Council get copies of the Report.

### Museum Staffing for November & December

November 17 - S. Tucker and B. Titus are scheduled. Barbara will check and if there is a vacancy, Diddy can do it.

December 1 – R. Stomber and S. Feibush can staff the Museum.

December 7 – The Tree of Lights Day, Betty Jean and Barbara can do part of the day, but not all. Additional staffing needs to be firmed up.

December 15 – B. Diem, B.J. Aldrich

For those staffing the Museum, make sure to put the flag out and turn over the sign in the driveway. (Flag is in the Eaton Room in the closet.)

### Stilbite from Weldon's Quarry – S. Tucker

Betse Titus reported for Sue Tucker about a piece of "Stilbite" that was found at Weldon Quarry. Stilbite is a mineral in the zeolite group. It forms aggregates that can be sheaf like. Some cultures believe it has angelic and healing properties. Sue found it on Amazon and purchased it for our collection.

### Texier Phone.

Diddy reported on how to use the telephones at Texier and how to retrieve messages. She will attach instructions to the Minutes and post instructions by each phone.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

All Members are encouraged to attend the Borough Christmas Party on Friday, December 6, 6:30 PM.

The next Council Meeting is November 25 – changed to a Monday because of Thanksgiving.

The meeting was adjourned at: 9:30 PM

Submitted by:

Dorothy Addario

Secretary

*Approved with corrections at the December 11, 2013 Meeting*

**NEXT MEETING: DECEMBER 11, 2013, 7:30 PM, TEXIER HOUSE**

ATTACHMENT

TELEPHONE AT TEXIER HOUSE MUSEUM

There are two telephones at the Texier House and the phone will ring both upstairs and downstairs. There is only one voice mail box so you only have to check one telephone.

DIAL 908-756-0080. Our extension is 232, or if you go down the directory, we are option 8.

You may also dial 908-745-2111, also extension 232 or, option 3.

When you get to our phone our messages says: *"You have reached the Watchung Historical Committee at the Texier House Museum. The Museum is open on the first and third Sundays of each month from 2 – 4 and by appointment. If you wish to leave a message, do so after the beep. If you need immediate attention, dial 908-756-5949."*

TO RETRIEVE MESSAGES WHEN YOU ARE AT THE TEXIER HOUSE – ON THE SCREEN OF THE PHONE THERE IS A BUTTON NEXT TO WHERE IT SAYS "V-MAIL" PUSH THAT BUTTON AND YOU WILL BE PROMPTED TO PUT IN OUR PASSWORD: \*88232.

TO RETRIEVE MESSAGES FROM A LOCATION OTHER THAN THE TEXIER HOUSE:

GET TO OUR EXTENSION BY ONE OF THE METHODS ABOVE. WHEN YOU HEAR OUR MESSAGE START, PUT IN OUR PASSWORD \*88232. FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT LISTENING, REPEATING MESSAGES, DELETING, SAVING, ETC.