

**HISTORICAL COMMITTEE**  
**Strategic Plan -2017**

**VISION/MISSION STATEMENT**

In our vision, the Historical Committee will preserve and protect the history of the Borough of Watchung. The Committee shall maintain the Texier House as a local museum containing all artifacts and material pertaining to the history of the Borough of Watchung. The Committee shall be dedicated to the maintenance of an accurate history of the Borough and seek to document all information collected. The Historical Committee shall gather current items of future interest and catalog and store such items for the future. The Committee will conduct programs as necessary to educate citizens on the colorful history of this area and to encourage resident participation. The Committee will seek to maintain high interest in historic homes and sites in the Borough to preserve our heritage.

**Goals and Objectives – 2017**

**High Priority \*\***

**Maintain the Texier House as a local museum containing all artifacts and material pertaining to the history of the Borough of Watchung displayed for the community to enjoy including the following initiatives:**

\*\*Monitor the improvements approved by the Borough to the Texier House in 2017. (Painting of the exterior, new ceiling lights and tiles, needed repairs, etc.)

\*\*Complete the exhibit highlighting Watchung Schools. Continue to set up displays at the Texier House Museum and refine those displays that have been completed.

\*\*Preserve and copy the Civil War diary so that it is workable as a display.

\*\*Commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of WW 1 with a special exhibit featuring our WW 1 Posters as a part of the State of NJ commemoration of WW 1.

Complete a design proposal for an Ice Harvesting Sculpture to be placed at Watchung or Best Lake to commemorate historical commerce and plan for implementation.

\*\*Research methods and the cost of removing and preserving *The Legend of Watchung Mural* currently at the Sears Building. Initiate interest in the value of preserving this Watchung treasure.

**\*\*Develop Bylaws for the Historical Committee and continue to develop policies and procedures as needed.**

**\*\*Participate in the Weekend Journey to the Past sponsored by the SCCHC to be held on Saturday, October 14 and Sunday October 15.**

Develop guidelines for the tours of the Museum and train volunteer docents to assist the Committee.

**Continue to implement the recommendations made by the CAPES evaluation within our budget: (This goal will take several years to complete.)**

**\*\*Develop a disaster plan in cooperation with OEM.**

Continue the inventory of all holdings, identifying and documenting any items that are on loan or whose ownership is unknown. Continue with the spreadsheets already developed and, as materials are catalogued, plan for organization, preservation, disposition and digitization.

Continue to relocate all collections items from non-archival storage to acid-free boxes and folders and papers to house the collection safely.

Begin the process of digitizing all holdings. Where possible, utilize copies for display while preserving the originals.

**Finish converting old VHS tapes and film reels recently obtained and sort through the footage with the Historical Committee to identify and categorize the material. Complete the second phase of the video recording gathered from interviews of long-time residents and officials of the Borough.**

Continue to refine script and video of original segments.

Get all necessary approvals for films by others and video release forms for all those interviewed in the film.

Write a special thanks/acknowledgment cover for the final DVD set.

Send out all produced/compiled/found footage to a company to professionally burn the footage to DVDs in high resolution for a complete DVD set.

**Review and evaluate the Historical Committee's link from the Borough's web-site and add appropriate material.**

**ON-GOING**

**Continue to organize the conference room for use as a work room and storage room for the Committee's materials.**

**Conduct small scale public events such as teas, special tours, holiday themed events, etc. and invite targeted groups. Invite other local historical groups for tours and special events.**

**Continue to meet with other Historical Committees from other towns to get ideas about showcasing and organizing the collection.**

**Oversee the Girl Scout Project of renovating the outhouse.**

**Continue to review the fiscal needs of the Historic Committee in view of the occupancy of the Texier House and the establishment of a Borough Museum.**

Develop procedures for the Financial Manager to track purchases and expenditures and monitor with the approved budget.

Examine external support for government and corporate grants.

Monitor the budget and report at all meeting of the Committee.

Keep an accurate record of the sale of all fundraising items.

Determine future budget needs.

**Collect and organize newspaper and magazine clippings, record events that occur in Watchung in 2017 and create a scrapbook of such material.**

**Continue fundraising efforts to include the note cards, Watchung throws, publications and other items as determined by the Committee.**

**Attend Historical Workshops sponsored by the state and county historical organizations to gain information to improve the functions of the Committee.**

**Continue to photograph appropriate events in the Borough and document major changes in landscape.**

**Continue to collect any and all information pertaining to the History of Watchung. Monitor on-line sources for historical material.**

## **LONGER-TERM GOALS**

### **Recreate the narrative to the program on the history of Watchung.**

Review and evaluate the old slides and determine if they could be used in a Power Point presentation about the history of Watchung.

Develop a script and program that can be used by all volunteers for programs and tours.

### **Document the origins of the names of the streets in the Borough.**

Utilize information gathered to regularly publish and disseminate articles about Watchung, including anecdotes and "Did you Know" type articles.

Explore programs to increase visibility and the image of the Historic Committee, i.e. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, other community groups.

Explore additional fund-raising projects and grants.

Research the role of Watchung in all aspects of the Revolutionary War to determine if there is any documented evidence of participation in the Revolution. Search for artifacts that might prove the presence of troops, etc.

Research Watchung history that may be in the archives of Warren, North Plainfield and Plainfield.

Explore the preservation of historic sites in Watchung.

*Approved at the March 21 Historical Committee Meeting*