

Historical Committee  
Minutes of the May 19, 2021 Meeting

Attendance: Christopher Vander Fliet, John Malchow, Baburao Koneru, Maureen Greenbaum, Rita Sadhvani, Fred Hayek, Lisa Delventhal, Pietro Martino

Absent: Renata Blumberg, Stephen Black, Betse Titus

Presiding: Christopher Vander Fliet

The meeting was called to order at 7:33PM

The minutes of the 4/21/21 meeting were approved.

**CHAIRPERSONS REPORT – Christopher Vander Fliet**

A substantial portion of the meeting was on reviewing the preparations for the Memorial Day celebrations on Monday, May 31, 2021. The ceremonies will commence at 9-30AM on that day in front of the Watchung Municipal building and the Texier House.

The Chair updated the committee on the present state of preparations. Jason Ng has completed sections of his exhibits. He is organizing components of the display in the Texier House so it would be presentable for the Memorial Day ceremony. A few additional sessions are needed to complete the exhibit and he will complete the text and story of the display post Memorial Day. A schedule of committee members volunteering to be present in the Texier House with Jason was made.

A brief review was made of the protocols that would be followed on Memorial Day such as a sign-in sheet, hand sanitation, wearing a mask, limiting occupation in Texier House at any one time to a total of 50 people, promoting keeping a distance of 6' between individuals or between individual groups. A roster of committee members staffing various sections of the Texier House was developed.

**LIAISON'S REPORT – Pietro Martino**

Pete updated the committee regarding several efforts through the township to prepare for the Memorial Day celebrations comprising a budget of about \$5,000. Among those, several of them were earmarked to occur around the Texier House including a) Planting of ornamental bushes, b) Flag displays, c) Displays of a fire truck and a few military vehicles.

Historical committee now can post social media messages after getting prior approval by the Mayor and Borough.

**VICE CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – John Malchow**

He circulated and discussed the main proposed changes to the Historical Committee Bylaws. Additional discussions and finalization were postponed to the next meeting due to time constraints at this meeting.

## **OTHER REPORTS**

Application for the town's participation in the Somerset County-organized 'Weekend Journey' was submitted to Somerset County through Natalie Zaman. Approval of insurance coverage is pending. Lisa Delventhal is overseeing this process for the Committee.

Preparations are under way to develop a media release regarding Memorial Day celebrations including reopening of the Texier House. Lisa Delventhal would work on drafting the press release and work with Committee Liaison, Pietro Martino for a timely submission to the media organization/s.

A brief discussion took place regarding the need for a finance sub-committee but no decision was made at the meeting.

A very brief discussion took place about updates to some of the existing displays including a) Lions Club Display, b) The Legend of Watchung, and c) Watchung Sports Display (Luke Graboyes/Anthony Volpe/Julia Cunningham). They would be pursued and discussed at future meetings.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**None**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The meeting was adjourned at: 9:08 PM

Submitted by:

Secretary: Baburao Koneru

**NEXT MEETING: 7-30PM, Wednesday, June 16, 2021**