

Historical Committee
Minutes of the August 18, 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 7:34PM

The meeting was recorded and will become available on the township's website.

The minutes of the 5/19/21 meeting were unanimously approved.

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT – Christopher Vander Fliet

Jason Ng, Eagle Scout who led the effort in upgrading of World War I and II exhibits this summer is finalizing the text accompanying the exhibits. Upon completion of a review including the township council, it would become part of the official exhibit.

Progress on the AARP grant will be reviewed in October/November after completion of the Weekend journey.

LIAISON'S REPORT – Pietro Martino

The recently conducted training session that included the township's administrator and attorney for all the volunteers participating in various committees was well received. The content will become available on the web. Completion of such training would become mandatory for all future volunteers.

Efforts are being made to upgrade and/or post signage on all buildings/structures considered historically important in Watchung such as Texier House, God's Acre, Best Lake, Eaton House, original schoolhouse, Town hall, etc.

VICE CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – John Malchow

Bylaws that had undergone two revisions this year will be circulated to members prior to another round of discussion and voting before sending to Town council. The main thrust of the revision effort is to achieve conformity of the bylaws with the relevant ordinances where such are applicable.

The recently conducted open house at Texier House on 8/15/21 that included two updated exhibits was well received both in attendance in the local media.

OTHER BUSINESS

The township council recently approved the new Covid-19 plan that includes authorization to open Texier House to public on two Sundays, 2P-4P. A sign in register, and wearing of masks by committee members in attendance will continue to be implemented.

After some discussion regarding the choice of Sunday open house dates, the committee agreed that it would be important to have an open day on 9/11/21 following the 9/11/01 memorial gathering. The second open house in that month will be 9/19/21.

Committee members are continuing their work in upgrades to the following exhibits.

John Malchow – Lions Club

Lisa Delventhal – Sports display

Additional brief discussion occurred regarding the importance of and how to encourage more engagement by school students regarding the history of Watchung and in various projects of the Committee. Given its important the committee plans to brainstorm on this topic in more detail in November/December meetings.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The meeting was adjourned at: 8:26 PM

Submitted by:

Secretary: Baburao Koneru

NEXT MEETING: To be announced later.