

Historical Committee
Minutes of the June 16, 2021 Meeting

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

Absent: Rita Sadhvani, Renata Blumberg, Stephen Black, Betse Titus

Presiding: Christopher Vander Fliet and John Malchow

The meeting was called to order at 7:36PM

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

Since official quorum was not reached no items were voted upon.

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT – Christopher Vander Fliet

The Township's Memorial Day celebrations were well attended. Following that event the Texier House was opened to the public. The efforts of the township for the several weeks of preparation including cleaning up of the Texier House and its grounds, and Pietro Martino's assistance with the display of military vehicles were recognized. Jason Ng exhibit was well received.

A total of \$105 was donated to the Historical Committee through the sale of bumper stickers and Robert Meyer's Historical Tales of Watchung. Also, a tour guide for the Texier House was unveiled.

A media release describing the Memorial Day events including the open dates for the Texier House for the next few months, commencing with the initial opening on July 25th is being prepared. Additional discussions were held to streamline this process of future media releases from the Historical Committee. Jason Ng is continuing his work on text content to accompany his recent exhibit in the Media room.

A brief discussion occurred regarding preparations for the countywide Weekend Journey to be held on October 9th and 10th with the Historical Committee's participation mainly pertaining to the Texier House being open to public during that event. Additional discussion included open times for Texier House during that weekend, the four exhibits that need work on (a new one on Lions Club, upgrading three others: the sports display, the Legend of Watchung, and Tibby Witherspoon). The Historic Committee will have three work sessions on July 11th, 18th and August 20th for committee members to facilitate their work on the planned exhibits and other related events.

LIAISON'S REPORT – Pietro Martino

Described the process for budget approval process for futures expenditures of the Historical Committee.

Concerns were raised regarding the frequent lack of quorum at the committees meetings and the practical problems associated with that. Some possible avenues as to how to address this problem were brought up including increasing number of committee members and possibly even making the membership completely open to the public.

He presented the concept of having the youth of Watchung, especially the high school students, involved in the Historical Committee including formation of a Historical Committee for the juniors.

Updated the committee regarding on-going work of the township on the upgrading of its website and asked the Historical Committee prepare the content that would eventually be a part of that website.

VICE CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – John Malchow

He presided over the last 30 minutes of the meeting and reiterated the first regular opening day of Texier House on July 25th, encouraged all members to attend the work sessions and participate in the Weekend Journey.

OTHER BUSINESS

Regular opening of the Texier House to the public, as was done before the COVID-19 pandemic (on first and third Sunday of each month from 2p-4p), was discussed at some length. At the suggestion of the liaison Pietro Martino incorporating the occasion of celebration of the National Parents Day on July 25th with the regular opening of the Texier House was discussed. It included consideration/planning of honoring Watchung Citizen/s for their contributions to the history of Watchung and its preservation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The meeting was adjourned at: 08:43 PM

Submitted by:

Secretary: Baburao Koneru

NEXT MEETING: August 18, 2021, 7:30PM