

**Historical Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Borough of Watchung**  
**January 20, 2021**

**MISSION:** *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.*

1. Call to order. 7:35 p.m., Council Liaison Pete Martino presiding.
2. Roll call of members present. A quorum was present.
  - a. Members in attendance: Lisa Delvanthal, Maureen Greenbaum, Baburao Koneru, John Malchow, Rita Sadvani, and Chris Vander Fliet and Liaison Pete Martino
  - b. Members not in attendance: Dorothy Addario, Betty Jean Aldrich, Steve Black, Renata Blumberg, Fred Hayek, Sr., and Betse Titus.
3. Introductions and general discussion.
  - a. All members of the committee introduced themselves to one another, discussed their respective backgrounds and interest in serving on the Watchung Historical Committee.
4. Reading/review of the authorizing Borough Ordinance § 2-43.
  - a. Councilman Martino noted the authorizing ordinance sets forth specific responsibilities.
5. Election of Officers.
  - a. Chair – John Malchow nominated Chris Vander Fliet to serve as Chair. Maureen Greenbaum seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.
  - b. Vice Chair – Maureen Greenbaum nominated John Malchow to serve as Vice Chair. Chris Vander Fliet seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.
  - c. Secretary – Baburao Koneru volunteered to serve as Secretary. John Malchow seconded the nomination. The motion was unanimously approved.
6. Unfinished business.
  - a. There was a general discussion of the members' skillsets, experiences, and what they hope to contribute to the work of the committee.
  - b. The Chairman provided an overview of ongoing and past projects the committee had been working on in 2020 and prior.

c. The Vice Chair advised members to review the Facebook pages for League of Historical Societies of New Jersey and the Texier House Museum in advance of the next meeting.

d. Action Items for Liaison Pete Martino: Work with Borough to determine if the Watchung Historical Committee can have a Watchung Historical website that is separate from the town website. Look into if and when current members of the committee can access the Texier House and how large of a group can go, and if the Borough can have scrapbooks and documents currently in the Texier house scanned under the current Borough budget.

e. Action Items for Chris Vander Fliet: Organize the agenda for the February Meeting, work to determine and prioritize which outstanding projects should be completed and how to begin to delegate these projects, have members fill out volunteer forms, organize/convey 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary items, organize “go-bys” for the committee.

f. Action Items for John Malchow: Work to develop and revise the Bylaws

g. Action Items for Maureen Greenbaum: Investigate the financial cost, and requirements needed for a Watchung Historical website, how to create it, how it will be maintained, who can maintain it, etc.

7. Adjourned at 8:35 p.m. until the next meeting scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on February 17, 2021.