

**Watchung Historical Committee
Minutes of the April 17th, 2024 Meeting**

Attendance: Chris Vander Fliet, Tim Logan, Maureen Greenbaum, Karen Jubin, Emily White, Stephen Pote, and Keli Leunes

Absent: Don Monetti, Bob Mayers, Michael DeParto, John Guzman, and Paul Fischer (Council Liaison)

The Meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm. Members of the meeting were present for a quorum. Minutes of the March, 20th meeting were discussed and approved. Motion to approve the minutes from the March 20th meeting was made by Tim Logan and seconded by Karen Jubin and approved.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – C. Vander Fliet

Vander Fliet provided a reminder to all members that Weekend Journey will be in October. We have not heard anything from the county just yet in regard to details on this event, but Vander Fliet will share when he receives them.

Vander Fliet reported on the second 'Scanning Day' on Sunday, April 14th. We had two outside volunteers, Winston and Nate. All volunteers (outside and committee) were very helpful and major contributors to the event. Sincere thanks were given to all who participated.

The Watchung Borough picnic will be held on May 18. Vander Fliet mentioned that he was able to secure a table for the committee and we will host the T-shirt project for residents.

Thank You cards were provided to Christine Hardtman (assistance with the T-shirt design), Justin Scalera (Providing digital photos of historical homes & businesses in Watchung), and Laurie Wood (donation of \$175.00 from the Watchung Ornament Program).

Seth Alexander donated a sign showing air raid procedures for duck and cover in the case of a wartime event or attack. The sign will be framed and displayed in the war display.

Watchung historical email, contact, and phone numbers were updated by Maureen G. for the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey. It is now consistent with the information we have on record with the NJ Museum Association.

Pote coordinated with the Borough/Bill Hance to have the Texier House Museum/Watchung Historical be a member of the NJ Museum Association, Sponsor Level. We received a membership card and numerous passes to the NJ State Museum Planetarium for the coming year.

Vander Fliet thanked Maureen G. for her continued work on the historical website which is shaping up and becoming an important feature for the committee and the upcoming 100th anniversary.

Remaining key fobs for the main door to the Texier House were distributed to members. Vander Fliet reported that each fob is associated with a member and will be recorded each time the fob is used to get into and out of the Texier House Museum. The existing keypad will remain functioning, but there was discussion that the punch-in keypad should be disabled going forward as to record who is entering and exiting the Museum. Minimally the code should be changed. There needs to be future discussion and coordination with the Borough on this subject.

The Borough newsletter was published, and Vander Fliet distributed the newsletter for review. Historical was represented well with photos and historical facts. Thank you all who helped to work on it.

Vander Fliet reported that the digital picture frames came in and were in the Historical Committees possession. A future time will be coordinated to hang them up.

VICE CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The sign that was previously located at Brook Hill was secured by Tim Logan and moved to the Texier House. The committee observed the sign and agreed it should be saved and potentially restored to some form of its original condition and displayed in the Texier House Museum.

LIAISON REPORT – P. Fischer

No report. Paul Fischer was not present.

PROJECTS/NEW BUSINESS

Thomas Schaefer Eagle Scout Project – To be deferred to the May meeting.

Artifact Assessment Program

Steve Pote briefly discussed takeaways from the first of two seminars. Pote scheduled an in-person meeting with members from the NJAM Artifact Assessment on June 14th. Pote and Vander Fliet asked as many members as possible to come to the June 14th meeting at the Texier House including Sue Tucker. Members from NJAM indicated that larger membership only had to participate for the first 1-1.5 hours, after which a smaller group can remain.

God's Acre Sign

The committee recommended the following comments to the Gods Acre sign - "Revolutionary War Veteran" to go to the top left of the sign and "Civil War Veteran" to go to the top right of the sign; both labels would be in bigger font size. The indicator for

each of these inhabitants also needs to be switched as it is incorrect on the version of the sign the Borough provided.

Updates from Christine Ead/Design Review. Apparently, the existing sign at God's Acre is in need of replacement. We need to provide the Borough with our idea(s) for a replacement. The new sign will have a QR code that will attach to the names and descriptions of all of those in the cemetery (from the May 2019 program which was filmed at Borough Hall). The Borough conveyed that they would like to keep the cemetery gate closed to visitors, so the sign would be placed in the vicinity of the fence and gate so that it can be easily read, but its distance from the gate will hopefully discourage vandalism. The historical committee would like to keep the old sign.

The group discussed that they would like to see the old style and font remain on the sign. The group liked the idea of placing a QR post so that visitors can online get a closer view of graveyard. It was discussed that potentially parts of the sign could be covered in plastic to protect it; this has to be balanced with the idea that over time humidity gets between the plastic and the sign, making the sign difficult to read.

Museum Filming Tour Updates

Vander Fliet had (3) proposals, however (2) were discussed (the third tabled for the May business meeting). The proposals are all from Strix Media, the first for Video Production, the second for Video Editing/Postproduction (See attached Proposals). Most of the first proposal (10 hours) is the filming of the Museum and recording a voiceover. Sue Tucker would be the choice for recording. Her recording would serve as the basis for the voiceover. The Historical Committee would receive the text from Sue's recording and we would be able to review and use it as required for historical purposes as well.

The second proposal includes mending the voiceover with the video that was taken in the first proposal. The final video would be one hour. Historical needs further discussion and to vote on in this May. Tim: Sue should be able to talk all she wants, then we will cut it down to one hour. We need clarification as to how much video and voiceover Strix Media will give us. The reason for multiple proposals is that a municipality can only consider proposals under \$6,600.00; greater than this would need a second quote for comparison purposes. Strix Media is highly recommended, Jake Feldman (how has helped the committee on numerous video editing projects and films) is an employee. We will be searching for another video company for an additional proposal. It was also decided that we need to ask Strix Media for a revised proposal that does not include the voiceover talent, but rather the revised and edits text from Sues recorded tour of the Texier House.

Watchung 100th/Coloring T-shirts Shirt

Markers/Sample Designs. It was decided that the images of structures in town (to be displayed on the shirts) will say 'Borough of Watchung NJ' in large letters. There was a discussion concerning the non-water-soluble fabric markers we would purchase. Markers are approximately \$1.00/ea. at Michaels. Keri: pack of 12, \$17.00, pack of 6, \$8.00. We

will go with 6 primary colors. Agree to purchase 2 packages of 20. There will be 6 stations – 2 or 3 pens per child at a time. We will use the fabric markers at other events in the future. It was decided that the T-shirt will be natural color and not white.

Due to time, discussion on the Historical Website and the historical video from J. Werner were deferred to the next meeting.

PUBLIC PORTION

(No comments)

SCHEDULE FOR TEXIER HOUSE OPENINGS (through June is as follows)

April 21

May 19, 27

June 2nd

July 21st

August 18th

September 15th

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Submitted by: Steve Pote (Secretary)

NEXT MEETING: May 15, 2024 at 7PM.

Attachments:

1. (2) Proposals from Strix Media
2. Gods Acre Sign Markups

Watchung Historical Site

GOD'S ACRE

HISTORIC WATCHUNG BURIAL GROUNDS

revolutionary war veteran

civil war veteran

David Demler
Died 1849

Mary Demler
Died 1854

Mary C. Demler (nee)
Died 1857

Mary Demler (nee)
Died 1854

Henry Doty
Died 1791

Simeon Mirax *
Died 1884

William L. Mirax *
Died 1871

Maryann O'Conner
Died 1817

Rhoda O'Conner (Stewart)
Died 1818

Ruben Runyon
Died 1825

Abigail Smalley (Jennings)
Died 1811

Jacob Smalley ●
Died 1836

James Smalley ●
Died 1812

Tabitha Smalley (Moore)
Died 1803

Ann Stewart (Tingley)
Died 1848

David Stewart
Died 1836

Rachel Stewart (Doty)
Died 1847

Samuel Stewart
Died 1807

William D. Stewart
Died 1868

Lewis Willet
Died 1822

Lewis Wilson
~~Died 1858~~

Martha Wilson
Died 1858

Zachariah Wilson
Died 1858

1847

Unmarked Graves

George Demler

Valentine Goodman *

Rachel O'Connor

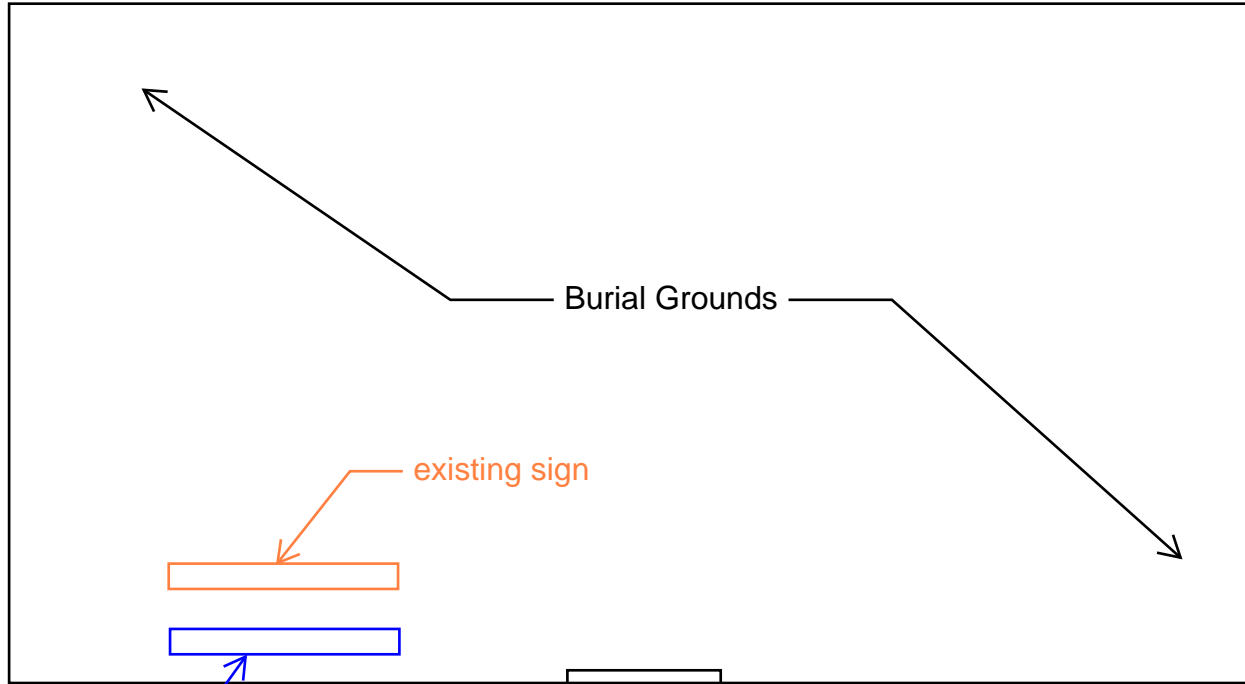
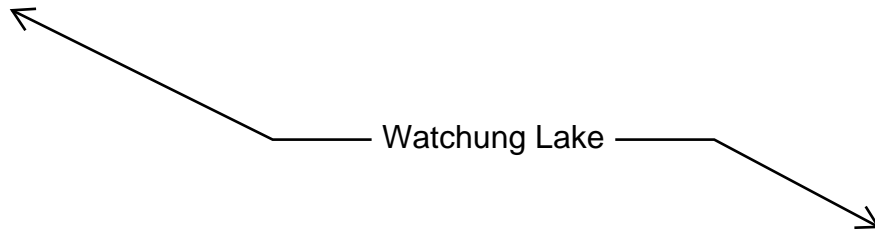
Gerhard Oltmann *
Died 1877

make this the asterisk

● Civil War Veteran

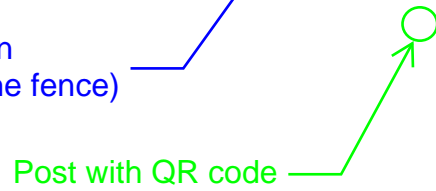
* Revolutionary War Veteran

make this the solid dot



Water & Wine

Proposed Sign
(just behind the fence)



existing gate

PROPOSAL

1

Bill to
Chris Vander Fliet
Watchung Historical
cvanderfliet16@gmail.com

Invoice #
46954-000042

Date issued
Jan 26, 2024

Next payment due
Jan 26, 2024

SERVICE INFO	QTY	UNIT	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
Video Production			\$0	\$0
Pre-Production <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creative Brief & Production Planning• Story Boarding / Shot List• Competitor & Market Research• Virtual Site Scout• Set Building & Prop Curation	1	Item	\$250	\$250
Video Production (10 Hours) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Producer/Director• Camera Operator• Sound Technician/Operator• Grip/Gaffer (Lighting Tech)• Production Assistant• 1 Location• Includes Setup and Breakdown Of Equipment	1	Day	\$3,000	\$3,000
Transcript Creation, Script Review & Clean Up	1	Item	\$1,250	\$1,250
Voiceover Talent <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Includes: 2 Voiceover Revisions• Identifying Brand Voice & Demographic• Curated List Of 5 VO Artists	1	Item	\$1,000	\$1,000

Final Deliverables & Ratios

Watchung Historical Museum Tour (Approx 1 Hour)

Subtotal	\$5,500
Total (USD)	\$5,500

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

AMOUNT	DUE DATE	PAYMENT DATE	PAYMENT ID	STATUS
\$2,750	Jan 26, 2024		#000042-001	OVERDUE
\$2,750	Milestone 1		#000042-002	UPCOMING

PROPOSAL

2

Bill to
Chris Vander Fliet
Watchung Historical
cvanderfliet16@gmail.com

Invoice #
46954-000067

Date issued
Mar 20, 2024

Next payment due
Mar 20, 2024

SERVICE INFO

QTY	UNIT	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
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Video Production

		\$0	\$0
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Video Editing/Post Production

20	Hours	\$150	\$3,000
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- 2 Revisions Per Video
- Basic Logo & Lower Thirds Animation
- Sound Design
- Color Correction
- Mastering Audio

Any Additional Revisions - \$200/Per Hour

Music For Commercial Use

1	Item	\$250	\$250
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- Royalty Free Music For Commercial Use

Subtotal	\$3,250
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Total (USD)	\$3,250
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PAYMENT SCHEDULE

AMOUNT	DUE DATE	PAYMENT DATE	PAYMENT ID	STATUS
\$1,625	Mar 20, 2024		#000067-001	OVERDUE
\$1,625	Milestone 1		#000067-002	UPCOMING