

Historical Committee
Minutes of the January 8, 2014 Meeting

Attendance: D. Addario, B. Aldrich, B. Diem, L. Franklin, B. Titus, S. Tucker and D. Beck-Clemens, Liaison. Absent – B. Black, R. Stomber

Presiding: B. Diem Chairperson

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 PM

The minutes of the December meeting were not yet circulated to members. They will be completed and mailed with the January Minutes.

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT – B. Diem

Welcome to New Member Lynn Franklin and Other Changes

The Committee welcomed Lynn Franklin as a new member replacing Sue Feibush. Elaine Stomber will serve as a Consultant and not a member. Lynn will also serve as our representative to the Somerset County Cultural and Heritage Commission. We now have a vacancy for another member.

Report on Museum Openings Attendance and Texier House

Attendance has been good except for this last Sunday when only a few people showed up. The bad weather was possibly a factor.

Traffic & Beautification Committee

T & B would like to store some of their materials at the Texier House. There is probably room on the third floor and B. Diem will follow up.

Visit from Charles Eaton

Charles Eaton will be in Watchung and visit the Texier House on Sunday, January 26. He has some more things to give us. All members are invited to come and meet him.

Letter for Justin Scalera and Eagle Scout Project

The letter has been signed giving Historical approval for his project. S. Tucker reported that it was presented to the Troop last night and it was approved. Now it will go to the Scout Regional.

Paintings in Borough Hall

The wrinkled paintings have been fixed. "Frame Me" in Raritan straightened them out and put a film on top to prevent it from happening again. They only charged \$20 to do this. The Committee discussed that perhaps film should be placed on the other paintings as well. The Committee asked D. Beck-Clemens if the Borough can take over the maintenance of the paintings. She will look into it.

LIAISON'S REPORT – D. Beck - Clemens

The Borough Newsletter deadline is February Feb. 14 and we should get an article prepared.

She brought a copy of a children's book, "Norman Plays Basketball" by Claire Gault, an author who lived in town. This is for our collection.

She is still working on the final wording of the Plaque for donors. The picture of the Texier House cannot go on the plaque. The Committee discussed the wording to be used and she will proceed with the plaque.

She asked if we would supply background material for L. Franklin. Diddy will email her minutes, strategic plan, etc.

Budget time is here. She will be working with the Committee to get this done. S. Tucker asked if it was possible to get an exact accounting of what we spent on the opening event. That should not be a problem.

OLD BUSINESS

CAPES Recommendations

B. Diem suggested that we start having workshops again to review and implement the recommendations in the CAPES report. Rick Stomber has information on materials. Since he was absent, Barbara will call him. It was decided to have the first workshop on Wednesday, Wednesday Jan 15, 10 AM.

Watchung Throws – Should we purchase for a fund raiser?

The Committee debated whether or not to purchase throws outright, or to first assess interest and/or take orders. Since the throw has been on display in the Texier House, there have been a number of inquiries about them. L. Franklin suggested that we order the minimum order of 36. She thought it was best to have them on hand when people ask about them. We can also put a picture in the Newsletter with information about where to purchase them. The Committee voted to purchase 36 throws. S. Tucker will place the order.

Living History Project

We need to get this project started again. It was determined that Bob Adams and Chris Vanderfleet are available for some taping this coming Saturday. Henry Long has agreed to be videotaped and we will try to schedule him for this Saturday. Barbara will try to get Betty Black for this Saturday as well. Sue reminded the Committee that before Chris and Bob can put it all together, we need to gather pictures for each category so they can match up the visuals with the interview. All members should try to attend the taping on Saturday, January 11, 2014. The Committee could start selecting pictures.

We also should interview former mayors and some other members of the Historical Committee.

Thank you Notes no progress

Lynn offered to finish the thank you notes. Diddy will gratefully turn over the thank you notes and transfer what she has to Lynn.

Deed of Gift and Incoming Loan Forms

Diddy had started on these forms, then when the CAPES report came in, the appendix had better models and she will get back to it.

NEW BUSINESS

Officers for 2014

Barbara moved that Sue Tucker serve as Chairperson for 2014 and Diana seconded the motion. The motion carried. It was suggested that Barbara serve as Co-Chairperson, and Diddy as Secretary. As discussed at previous meetings, the Committee needs a Treasurer. Lynn stated she has experience as Treasurer for other organizations and would be willing to serve. It was agreed that Lynn would serve as our Treasurer. Therefore, the Officers for 2014 will be as follows:

Chair -	Sue Tucker
Co-Chair -	Barbara Diem
Secretary -	Dorothy Addario
Treasurer -	Lynn Franklin

It was also decided that Betty Jean, Betse, and Lynn will take over the yearly clippings. Lynn will monitor the Courier, Betse, the Ledger and Betty Jean, the Echoes. Diddy will continue to do Highlights, but would like help with it. .

Diddy turned her budget file over to Lynn.

Strategic Plan 2014

It was decided that we will work on the Strategic Plan in workshops. In the meantime, Diddy will try to flesh out a draft. She will also work on the Annual Report and Highlights for review at our next meeting.

Budget 2014

Sue, Barbara and Lynn will meet with Dianna and Bill Hance.

Schedule for Texier Museum Openings

Jan 19 – Betse, Diddy
 Feb. 2 – Sue Tucker, Diddy
 Feb 16 – Betse, and Barbara

It was suggested that Lynn try to attend one of these openings.

Girl Scout Gold Award Proposal

Sue presented the proposed project for a Girl Scout Gold Award. Madeline Quinn would like to explore the history of education in Watchung. She will develop an exhibit for the Texier House. The Committee approved the project. As her project is refined, we will get more details. Members present received a copy of the proposal.

Annual History Day

Sue suggested that we press for an annual Watchung History Day. She suggested that it could coincide with the Harvest Festival. Glen le Boeuf is willing to organize another reenactment. This will need further discussion at our next meetings.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/OTHER

A reminder that our meetings will start at 7:00 PM instead of 7:30 for 2014.

Dianna suggested that we get out another fund raising letter soon. (Diddy has information on the 501(c)3 form, which she will get out to members.)

Russ Shumacher is developing a WHRHS all class reunion on May 31, 2014 at Forest Lodge from 1:00 – 5:00 PM.

There will be a Civil War Program at WHRHS on Monday, January 13, 2014 at 7:00 PM. The program is free and open to the public.

Walter Pennett came to drop off some sports material. Most are materials that were not selected to be in his display and they will be placed back in storage for future use. He will email the spreadsheet he developed for the items he used.

Betse followed up with Hester (an Eaton granddaughter) who said she did not know of any tunnel from the Eaton Barn. However, Barbara asked Charles Eaton about it and he said there was a tunnel from the quarry pit that went under Valley Road. He will tell us more about it on January 26. There was an old article in the Courier about Robin Scott and his brothers finding the tunnel and after the publicity, the town closed it up. Hester also said that there was another barn on the property that was knocked down around 1947 or 48. The barn that is now used as a home was not converted to a home until 1946 or 47. Perhaps we can clarify some of these questions when Charles Eaton visits.

The meeting was adjourned at: 9:40 PM

Submitted by:

Dorothy Addario
Secretary

Approved at the February 12, 2014 Meeting

NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 12, 2014, 7:30 PM at the TEXIER HOUSE