

Historical Committee
Minutes of the May 11, 2016 Meeting

Attendance: B. Diem, B. Aldrich, L. Franklin, B. Titus, D. Addario, L. Stahl, C. Vander Fliet
D. Mobus, Liaison

Presiding: B. Diem, B. Aldrich, Co-Chairpersons.

The minutes of the April 12, 2016 meeting were approved.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Barbara announced to the Committee that we won the Somerset County Historic Leadership and Education award. We should all try to attend the ceremony on May 25 at 7:00 p.m. at the Brook Arts Center.

Barbara spoke about John Toolan. He will be honored at the Memorial Day celebration. Lynn F. spoke about his health; he may not be able to attend the ceremony. Diddy mentioned that maybe the rescue squad could transport him to the event. We will see how his health is closer to the time of the event. The Committee discussed the events for Memorial Day—we will have coffee, iced tea, and baked goods.

Barbara talked about the Girl Scout Project and advised the Committee that she told the Girl Scout to contact Steve Pote about the scavenger hunt. She mentioned the outhouse needs to be renovated, and when Barbara spoke to her, she seemed interested in the project.

Lynn S. and Rick put felt on the bottoms of all the chairs in order to stop the floor from getting scratched.

Barbara told the Committee that we received a thank you note from Shelini. The Committee also received a thank you note from Jane Abel, who took a memory trip back to Watchung and to the Texier House. The Committee received a card and donation from the Watchung seniors. June 8 is the next meeting of the Seniors. We want to give them Watchung plates.

Betty and Betse will help Barbara with the table at the Community Picnic.

Barbara spoke about the article about Claire Ohl. She also told the Committee about the lifeguard that used to work at Watchung Lake. He wanted to see the Texier House. He's 90 years old and came to visit the Texier House when Barbara and Betty were there.

FINANCIAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Lynn F. reported that she doesn't have a financial report because she couldn't open the report Bill sent to her. We received a \$100 donation from the Watchung Seniors.

Lynn F. advised that we made 42 cups of coffee when we had the seniors in for lunch. We used 32 cups and had 10 cups left over.

Lynn talked about a survey that needed to be filled out for the County. It is used to give out grants. It included what services we would need or want. She filled out the survey for the Committee with input from other Historical Committee members.

Lynn reported about the Somerset County Cultural and Heritage Committee meeting. There were not enough volunteers for the Teen Arts Festival; the New Jersey History Fair is May 14, etc. Lynn replied to a survey on line from the County. She asked everyone to fill out a survey form that she sent to the Committee and then return it to her.

LIAISON'S REPORT

Dave advised the Committee that he announced the Historic Committee award at the last Council meeting.

He advised the Committee that Bob Byrnes and Tom Herits are assessing the basement about the waterproofing, the floor, fascia, soffit and gutters. Bob thought the DPW would be able to do a lot of the work.

On June 2nd the Council will introduce a bond ordinance to include the building repairs, lighting, ceiling and outside.

Dave spoke about mannequins. He talked to his friend and he suggested we look at the website for his company to see what kinds of mannequins we need. Diddy talked about mannequins for the fire, rescue, and police uniforms. We talked about the type and number of used mannequins we need.

OLD BUSINESS

Rick mentioned that he lost his keys, so he needs a new fob. Barbara will get one for him. Betse can't find her name tag; Chris also needs a name tag.

We need a new member. Jeanne Wyler can't be part of the Committee because of time constraints. She is willing to help out when she can.

NEW BUSINESS

Barbara spoke about Sondra Epstein and talked about the Columnar Maple Tree Cookie. The Environmental Commission wants to know if the Historical Committee wants to house it. Our future plans call for a shed to house farm implements, tools, etc. Barbara will advise her we will keep it and tell her that the Environmental Commission should continue to oil it.

The Great Swamp can inscribe text on it for \$100. The Committee will think about either getting a plaque for it or having text inscribed on it.

Chris spoke about the film he is working on. He is still working on four sections; there are two sections on the Boy Scouts, a section on the Rescue Squad, and one section on the Revolutionary War. He went to Belvidere to interview Gil Legg, who was an assistant scout master. Chris would also like to do a section on Claire Ohl.

Diddy told the Committee that she has gathered together all the VCRs from Tony's interviews.

Chris reached out to Spencer Kipe to interview him. He hasn't set up a date yet, but will try to set one up. Chris told the Committee that there are a lot of pictures in the drop box account. He would like to go through them with the Committee sometime and label them.

Betty Jean mentioned that there is an anonymous donor who would like to donate to the Historic Committee. The donation could be for a shed for the tools that are in the basement. Dave will look into what is necessary for a shed (i.e., permits, etc.). Barbara advised that there were people interested in seeing the tools when we had them displayed in the past.

Texier House Openings:

June 5 – Rick and Barbara

June 19 – Diddy and Betty

Sept. 4 – Betse and Lynn F.

Sept. 18 – Betty Jean and Babara

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by
Lynn Stahl
Interim Secretary