

Historical Committee
Minutes of the February 15, 2017 Meeting

Attendance: B. Diem, B. Aldrich, B. Titus, D. Addario, R. Stomber, L. Franklin, L. Stahl
Guest: Shelini Parikh

Presiding: D. Addario, Chairperson

The minutes of the January 11, 2017 meeting were approved.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Diddy reported to the Committee that she contacted Kelsie Howard, our town grant writer, sent her information and asked her to get back to her. Diddy spoke to her about a grant the Committee was thinking of applying for, and asked her if we have everything required in the grant. She replied that we don't. She has an assistant who is familiar with this grant and we're not a good fit for it. The problems with the grant are the complexity of the grant, whether we could meet the deadlines and all of the ADA requirements.

The newsletter is due next week. Diddy wants to write about the mural at Sears. Tim Logan, Chris, Diddy, Barbara, Betse and Betty went to look at the mural. Chris and Tim climbed up on a ladder to see how it's attached to the wall. It's a beautiful history of Watchung. Betse said the Falls look beautiful. Lynn F. said that it might be a good fundraiser to try to get Watchung residents to donate toward saving the mural. Garfield Hunter Jones is the artist. The mural is 16' x 20'. Betse passed around pictures of it. Shelini suggested putting something on Facebook about the mural for someone to volunteer their services in removing it off of the wall. The Committee concluded that it's definitely worth saving. Betse suggested that we should get a picture taken of the mural by a professional photographer before it's taken down. Diddy said there was a gentleman at the opening of the Texier House who said he would like to take pictures. She will try to think of his name. Shelini said we should do an article for the Watchung Living magazine and advised that there's a photographer for the magazine.

World War I Program—we need to decide if we want to do a display this year or next year.

Diddy advised the Committee that she has no answer about the mildew on the outside of the Texier House.

She also advised the Committee that she has to speak to the IT person about the computer and getting programs installed.

FINANCIAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Lynn F. reported that she didn't bring the budget with her since Diddy talked to Bill Hance and said we were going to continue with the same numbers. Lynn would have tweaked the numbers a little, but said it's fine as is. Lynn F. reported that the Watchung Community Foundation budget for February was \$17,730.56 and the Watchung Borough budget for February was \$2474.06. There were no expenses and no donations.

Lynn F. went to the Somerset County Cultural and Heritage Committee meeting on Feb. 1. She reported that the Historical Marker Program will place historic markers at the Halls Mills Murder Site. The Teen Arts Festival is May 17. The next meeting will be on March 1 at 7:30 p.m. and if anyone is interested in getting fingerprinted so they can volunteer at the Teen Arts Festival, there will be fingerprinting done by the Sheriff's Department an hour before the meeting.

March is food for life month. They are building planter boxes and raising food to give to the food bank.

Workshops – Getting and Keeping Your Fiscal House in Order - \$20 per person.

Lynn F. advised the Committee that one of the towns that was previously involved in Weekend Journey through the Past, Rocky Hill, didn't participate in it in subsequent years. She talked about that, at the last Somerset County Cultural and Heritage Meeting, it was a topic of discussion to try to get them to participate again.

LIAISON'S REPORT

Dave was unable to attend the meeting, so there was no Liaison's Report.

OLD BUSINESS

Diddy asked the Committee if we all agree that we should keep the mural. Lynn F. made a motion to continue to investigate any means of salvaging the mural located at Sears. Lynn S. seconded the motion and the Committee unanimously voted to keep the mural.

World War I Program – The State is coordinating a celebration of WWI. Diddy asked if we have enough articles on the war to do a display. Barbara said we have the roster of people who were in WWI. Lynn F. said we could research and do an article on the artists of the posters. Diddy said we could research the history of the posters. Diddy said we could get an exhibit together this year. The Committee agreed.

Follow up on Watchung Signs – Diddy said we want the old style signs. She will follow up to find out who is responsible for the signs. Barbara mentioned that she thinks T&A are responsible.

Chris couldn't attend the meeting, but sent an email to Diddy that he is still organizing old footage/videos about Watchung to include in the final DVD set. Diddy will re-schedule the meeting for the Committee to view the video as soon as she gets a date from Chris.

NEW BUSINESS

Diddy advised the Committee that she did a draft of the Strategic Plan. The Weekend Journey is missing from the plan. Diddy would like feedback about the Strategic Plan before the next meeting so that the Committee can approve it. Diddy thinks it would be good to get Gary Greeves to attend one of our meetings to discuss a disaster plan with OEM.

Barbara said the Girl Scout mother, Tammy Bank, stopped by. They want to work on the outhouse. Tim Logan was there and offered to put in a new floor.

Rick volunteered his wife to talk about the posters. She could do a program; she has a powerpoint presentation and could do it with the posters.

.Newsletter Suggestions- Texier House open on the first and third Sundays of each month. The Committee suggested that Diddy write about the Historical Committee and talk about the mural. Barbara gave a suggestion for the sign – put hooks under the sign on the circle. Betse made a motion that we purchase a sign to put on Mountain Boulevard so people driving around the circle can read the sign to determine what days and times the Texier House is open to the public. Lynn F. seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Lynn F. wants to change the letterhead to show Diddy as the Chairperson and Lynn S. as the Secretary. After she makes those changes, she will send it to Diddy.

Lynn F. suggested that Diddy contact Rick's wife in order to work out a date for her to do the presentation regarding the posters. We could advertise on a county level; possibly the presentation could be scheduled for a Sunday in November.

Schedule for Texier House—February 19 – Rick, Betse

March 5 – Diddy, Betse

March 19 – Lynn F., Lynn S.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m. The next meeting will be held on March 15.

Submitted by
Lynn Stahl
Secretary