

Historical Committee
Minutes of the January 9, 2013 Meeting

Attendance: D. Addario, B. Aldrich, B. Black, B. Diem, B. Titus, S. Tucker,
R. Stomber, St. Pote, Liaison. Absent: S. Feibush, E. Stomber

Presiding: B. Diem Chairperson. The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM

The Minutes of the December 12, 2012 Meeting were approved as circulated.

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT – B. Diem

Barbara welcomed Steve Pote back as our Liaison from the Council, and new members Dick and Elaine Stomber who have been added to our Committee.

Selection of Wall for Eagle Scout

Walter Pennett, the Boy Scout working on his Eagle Scout project needs a picture of the wall that we have selected for his use in the Texier House. Barbara also has a letter officially stating that the Historical Committee has approved his project. The Committee selected the wall for him to use, and Sue Tucker, his advisor, will inform him.

Update on Books Purchased.

Eight Moldenke Castle Books have been ordered and we now have a small supply of the Hillcrest Road book.

Oaths of Office

Barbara circulated the oaths of office for members to sign. She will return them to Borough Hall.

LIAISON'S REPORT – S. Pote

Steve reported that he is pleased to be back with the Committee. This year he is also the Council President and he has many things he wants to drive to closure, one of them being getting the Texier House opened with at least a few displays. He also stated that he thinks getting a video ready is a priority. A discussion followed of our goals for the year, what has been accomplished and the next steps. Later in the meeting, strategic planning and goals for the year will be discussed. The Committee needs to keep the Council informed of plans for the displays.

The Library Building Committee is meeting and looking at options now that the building referendum for the library was narrowly defeated.

When asked if the 501(c)3 tax exempt status is finalized for the Borough Foundation, he will check. It is believed it is completed, but he will double check.

OLD BUSINESS

Work Sessions at the Texier House

Diddy, Barbara and Betty Jean will work at the Texier House tomorrow to begin setting up the files for the President's and Secretary's materials.

Any member who can help with the sorting and organizing to meet on January 16 and 30 at 1:00 PM and on January 26, 2013 at 10:00 AM

NEW BUSINESS

Highlights 2012

Diddy circulated a draft of the Highlights of 2012. Members are to review, make corrections, additions, etc. and come prepared to the next meeting to finalize it.

Strategic Plan 2013`

All Committee members participated in a strategic planning exercise, reacting to questions about the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats (SWOT Model). Results are attached.

Diddy then circulated a draft of a potential Strategic Plan for the Committee for 2013. Members are to review, make additions based on the exercise and come to the next meeting prepared to finalize the Strategic Plan for 2013.

Member List 2013

Members were asked to update contact information for the Member List 2013. She will finalize and attach to the minutes.

Borough Newsletter

Articles are due for the next Borough Newsletter. Barbara and Diddy will write something up and submit it. We should give an update of activities.

The meeting was adjourned at: 8:50 PM.

Submitted by:

Dorothy Addario

Secretary

Approved at the February 13, 2013 Meeting

NEXT MEETING February 13, 2013, Texier House

ATTACHMENT

Comments from Strategic Planning Exercise

What are our Strengths? (What is good about the Historical Committee and What Resources Do We Have?)

Tremendous knowledge of Watchung History
 High level of commitment to preserving the history of Watchung
 Best resources are the human ones – people.
 Great location, backing of Borough Council
 Longtime resident's knowledge
 Wonderful building to work with.
 Great facility compared to many other towns
 Commitment and enthusiasm of members.
 Center of town location and good parking
 Lots of materials!
 A collaborative team.

What are our Weaknesses? (What is not so good about our Committee, what can we do better?)

Schedules for completion – Structured detailed plan with dependence on others.
 Need more knowledge about how to go about setting up a museum.
 More time for organization with all members present.
 Not enough knowledge of how to organize.
 Making decisions – we need to just “do it.”
 Technology – we need to do more with videos, utilize computer for inventory, need web site.
 Just overwhelmed with all there is to do – where to start?
 Make specific requests for our needs, we don't do that well.
 Space for inventory.

What opportunities Do We Have (that we have not taken advantage of?)

Council Support to open this when we are ready.

The 501(c)3 tax exempt status – we need to exploit this.

Drafting others in the community to help us – kids, schools, etc. to help us draft a video

Broadcasting, publicizing our mission to add to the collection, get help from the community – get the Echoes Sentinel involved.

Many people have offered to help – we don't know how to use them.

We need to capture the wealth of knowledge that exists with townspeople, committee members, through video, written word.

We can get tech support from Borough Hall – we just have to ask.

We need to get things up and running before time runs out!

What threats do we face? (What are our problems?)

We just need to open the museum!

How to organize

Help with organization of work

Potential loss of momentum if we drag our feet on opening

If the economy gets worse we won't get support

Being on the circle without walking ability to building

Budget, finance – won't really know until we start creating displays

Relevancy – people not interested in history

Not taking advantage of or recording the knowledge that long time and older residents have about the town –they may move or die off.