

Historical Committee
Minutes of the June 12, 2013 Meeting

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

Presiding: B. Diem Chairperson

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM. An early meeting was called in order to have a work session with the whole Committee present after a brief business meeting.

The minutes of the May 8, 2013 meeting were approved as circulated.

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT – B. Diem

Special Guest – Glenn LeBoeuf – 3rd NJ Volunteer Infantry

S. Tucker introduced Glenn LeBoeuf who is a local history enthusiast and very active in the NJ Volunteer Infantry. This organization presents Civil War re-enactments and has always thought that our village green would be an ideal place for such a presentation. They have drills, cook over a campfire, re-enact a battle, have gun drills with wooden guns, etc. They usually get local teachers and historical groups involved. S. Tucker thought this might be a good idea to have when we open the museum.

Glenn presented some of the details involved including the need for permits from the Borough. He stated that they would have a very low impact on the lawn and that they leave the environment the way they found it. September, October, May and June are the best months to have such a program. He cited that pre-event publicity is crucial to attracting an audience. They often use local Scouts for backup.

The Committee generally thought this was a good idea. D. Beck-Clemens will present the idea to the Council and S. Tucker will continue to work with Glenn about possible dates and the program itself.

Update on Seniors and Garden Club Material

There may be some space in the attic for some Garden Club material. Betse and Barb will go to the Seniors to determine if there are any materials we want.

CAPES Site Visit

We have been notified that the funding has been received and we should be hearing shortly about dates for our site visit.

Catherine Wilmerding Rule and the Wood Carving of the Castle

Catherine Wilmerding Rule was a Watchung resident who now lives in Florida. She is an artist and had made a wood carving of the Castle many years ago. Barbara sent her the book about the Castle and also a picture of the stained glass now at the Texier House. She has decided that she is going to give us the wood carving after she has the frame fixed. She will mail it up to us very soon. The Committee was very happy to hear this because it is a beautiful piece and we have a perfect spot for it. She also is in touch with Jerry Herrick in Saudi Arabia who lived in the castle. She sent him a picture of the stained glass and he is going to call Barbara.

Thank you Notes Sent

The secretary has sent thank you notes to Ray Adams, Charles Eaton and Patty Davis.

Supplies of Watchung Books and Notecards

There are twenty-nine Watchung books left and twenty-four notecards left. The Committee should decide soon whether or not we need to order more. It was also mentioned that there have been many requests for the Watchung throws. No decision was made.

Diorama Update

Mary is working on the lighting for the castle. She has ordered the outhouse and will start on the base soon.

LIAISON'S REPORT – D. Beck - Clemens

There will be a Jerry Mobus Memorial Fishing Derby on September 21, 2013 at Watchung Lake. The Harvest Festival will be on October 26, 2013.

Maria Bachert, the Recreation Director has resigned effective on June 15. Mayor Pote will be appointing a new director as soon as possible.

A sample letterhead with a very nice picture of the Texier House was distributed. The Committee liked the idea of the Texier House and Dianna will continue to tweak it.

The 501(c) 3 tax ID number is: 46-0621799. This is for the Watchung Community Foundation. This is the number to use for any donations. She is working with Borough Hall on a donation form that can be used for this Foundation.

Dianna complimented S. Tucker for tracking Watchung items on the computer. She is finding some very good artifacts for us.

It has been determined that the best way for us to use petty cash is to use the petty cash from Borough Hall. Otherwise the accounting gets way too complicated and fraught with problems with the tax exempt status. Bring the receipt to Borough Hall for small amounts. The best way to purchase items is to get a purchase order. There is a list of vendors who have an account with the Borough and purchases can be charged.

Dianna distributed a print out of an interviewing guide which was on line from the Smithsonian.

She found a two page leaflet on "How to Start a Museum." Diddy will make copies and send it with the draft of the minutes.

The Borough's website will be managed by a new professional web master. We can have a link on the new site. We also need to have our own Facebook page.

OLD BUSINESS

Track Lighting for Stained Glass – R. Stomber

Since Richard was absent, Diddy will email him about the track lighting and making sure that Elaine can attend the CAPES visit.

Oral History – S. Tucker

Sue has located two young volunteers to create filmed interviews and edit them. Bobby Adams just graduated Hofstra with a degree in filmmaking and Chris Vanderfleet is a young Eagle Scout who has worked with Bobby on many projects. They must do this in the summer when they are available. Sue will continue to follow up on details including whether or not we can borrow or rent needed filming equipment.

NEW BUSINESS

S. Tucker announced that we will be receiving some of Annie Casale's cookbooks donated by Annie's daughter.

She has been in touch with Joe DuPont about the possibility of getting some Indian Artifacts from his father who had an extensive collection. He is offering a huge mortar which was used to grind grain. The Committee wants it and Sue will follow up on how to get this huge artifact to the Texier House.

Iraq War Memorial

The High School wanted to know if the Committee had a list of Iraq war veterans who attended WHRHS. We do not have such a list but we can send the list we have. There is a space on the monument for a plaque for the Iraq War. After some discussion it was decided that we should start the process of determining what residents of Watchung did serve in the Iraq War for inclusion on the Memorial. Barbara will put ads in the paper and contact the VFW.

Categories

Diddy distributed copies of the categories we had discussed in previous meetings that she found in the minutes. .

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM, and the Committee worked downstairs.

Submitted by:

Dorothy Addario
Secretary

NEXT MEETING

BUSINESS MEETING/WORKSHOP - July 10, 2013, 6:30 PM, TEXIER HOUSE.

Note: The Committee normally does not meet in July and August but it was agreed that whoever is around should come to a meeting in July.