

Historical Committee  
Minutes of the October 8, 2014

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

Presiding: S. Tucker, Chairperson. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

The minutes of the September 10, 2014 meeting were approved.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – S. Tucker**

Watchung History Day

Sue Tucker spoke about Watchung History Day; she reported that approximately 137 people signed our guest book. She also showed the committee a copy of the Echoes Sentinel article about History Day. Sue advised the committee that she thinks that in the future we need to do a better job of publicizing the event. Also, she thinks we should have been doing more displays earlier in the year. Rick advised us that with a museum there is a correlation between exhibits and attendance at the museum. He thought the day went very well and thinks that we should look at programming. He advised the committee that History Day is possibly an event that we should not have every year.

Sue would like all the committee members to write up their thoughts about the event and possible future events for year-end planning purposes.

Dianna said she told the Council that when the video is finished we will show it to the Council. Dianna asked about how long the video is now and was advised that it is approximately 45 minutes.

Sue mentioned about having a night for the committee members to see the video. B. Aldrich said that Chris is still enthusiastic about it and wants to continue it. It was noted that Chris has not worked on the growing up in Watchung section yet.

It was discussed that it would be nice for the Mayor and Council to come and see the video. Sue also mentioned that she wants Chris to put years on the clips. She wondered if pictures of the new Fire Dept. members should be added to the video.

Food from Watchung History Day-Barbara asked what we'll do with the leftover apple crisp. She gave some out, but wants to know about putting receipts in for the three trays that Betty Jean and she made. After discussion, Barbara stated that Betty Jean and she will not submit receipts for the apple crisp. The Committee thanked her.

Diddy pointed out that as the years go by, we'll see a trend and then we'll know how much food to make.

The hot dogs were discussed. A Scout leader bought them at A&P, but they should be bought wherever the best price is obtained. For future reference, the A&P is not an economical place to purchase them. Any leftover food from History Day can be sent to the food bank.

**FINANCIAL MANAGER'S REPORT-L. Franklin**

L. Franklin reported that our balance in the Watchung Community Foundation is \$14,202.54. The borough budget is \$5966.39. Lynn submitted some receipts to Bill but hasn't gotten anything back yet. Sue was reimbursed \$269.30, C. Scalera \$457.24 and \$250 was paid for the

ice cream truck. Our expenses are \$976.54 so far. Almost all of that was for frames. We have a horticultural budget of \$50 for the flowers. Sue advised she hasn't turned in receipts for the flowers yet. She will get the receipts to Lynn. L. Franklin advised the Committee that we made \$265 on sales of books, quilts, etc. during Watchung History Day. There were no new donations to report.

L. Franklin checked the mailbox and there were various pieces of mail. One piece of mail was the write up about the Weekend's Journey through the Past.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Barbara advised us that she ordered six Moldenke books which will be sent to Borough Hall.

The Girl Scout Project was put on hold. Barbara told us that when she spoke to Maddie she advised her that we would be in touch with her. Sue will get in touch with Maddie about her project. B. Black told Barbara that she'll drop off a book about Mount St. Mary's. Sue reported that it was a problem years ago to get a picture of Mount St. Mary's. When David did the book, he had to get permissions from everyone about pictures. The Committee expressed the opinion that Mount St. Mary's should be included in the project since it is a school in Watchung.

Old pictures have to be put on CDs. Most of David's pictures came from the Historical Committee.

Barbara told the committee that Titus Surveying Company does not want the cabinet. Mary Cicarelli did all the signage we needed. Any ones that were forgotten, Barbara's daughter did. Rick will see if he can buy a cutter. We also need a laser in order to hang pictures.

Barbara talked about the sign in front of the Texier House. L. Monnetti gave her a book on signs. Barbara went to the sign place that did the new church signs. She will get an estimate for the sign in the front. Betse and Barbara requested an estimate from a business on Route 22. Sue suggested we get an estimate for a sign for over the door also.

The committee discussed what should be done about the ceiling and lighting. Barbara suggested a tin ceiling which she read from a previous estimate would cost approximately \$750. To install lighting, it would be approximately \$800. Sue told the committee she has a house listing that has old tin tiles for the ceiling. L. Franklin asked if we could go to see the tin.

Betse read a letter to Frank Berlin from Lewis J. Gray, Mayor in 1950, in which the Great Appalachian Storm of 1950 was referenced.

Barbara spoke about the ice design monument. It has to do with the history of Watchung Lake and would be put somewhere by the lake. She referenced a drawing and estimate which was from 2010 in which the estimated cost would be \$5500. The estimate was from the same gentleman who made the Bobby Thomson sign. Barbara and Betty Jean volunteered to handle the project. Dianna will see Steve Black on Tuesday and will ask about getting a rock from Weldon. Dianna asked Barbara to get the height and width of rock needed and to let her know. The tongs will be covered in lucite so that they won't deteriorate over time.

### **LIAISON'S REPORT**

Dianna reported that through the Green Team and Environmental we received the bronze award for sustainable New Jersey. This affects our grants. Also, she reported that the Farmer's Market is part of that.

The Council is working on getting the wall fixed.

Dianna reported that there is a company, EIF, which will do a total audit of your house for a cost of \$49 to the homeowner for energy efficiency. The town has approved this company.

Dianna spoke about the Volunteer Book. Sue advised that she had spoken to Mayor Pote who wanted it done for Watchung History Day. Dianna said we'll keep working on it. Sue wants to revise it and have it done by the Harvest Festival.

Collections Project- Dianna heard back from Al Cruz, the borough attorney. She is going to make some revisions as a result of the attorney's comments.

Dianna advised that Mr. Eaton needs to sign the Gift Agreement. Barbara will have him sign it.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Barbara reported that Tim Logan brought information to her house about the walk from the Santucci house to Washington Rock. On Watchung History Day, Tim Logan saw Barbara and asked if his material was on display. Sue advised that it is lacking historical accuracy and pointed out that Washington Rock is in Green Brook. Dianna said Barbara could tell Tim Logan that it will go on our list for temporary displays.

Barbara bought a cabinet from a consignment shop. It's in the kitchen.

Sue spoke about events for the rest of the year:

    Invite Town Council

    Invite Lions Club (they meet twice a month on Wed. per Dianna)

It was suggested that we could have the Lions Club in prior to our meeting. We could have them in at 6:00 p.m. before our 7:00 p.m. meeting. Our next meeting is November 12.

L. Stahl suggested we should have the Texier House cleaned before Nov. 12. L. Franklin said she will arrange for it to be cleaned.

Sue asked when we will invite Diane Gallets to the Texier House and speak to her about the cannon. L. Franklin suggested we have a luncheon and invite her.

Sue talked about inviting the people who have donated to us and helped us to visit the Texier House.

L. Franklin talked about the Harvest Festival which is on Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>. L. Franklin and L. Stahl volunteered to do a table for CERT and could also do a table for the Historical Committee also.

L. Franklin advised the Committee that there are errors in the labeling of the houses. The years should not have apostrophes. They need to be fixed.

L. Franklin will talk to Maria about a work order for the broken urinal in the men's room.

Diddy put together a write up on Tibby Wotherspoon. She had the goal in mind in writing this of having the type large enough so that people can read it and also was trying to fit it on one page. It didn't fit on one page, so if anyone can tweak it and have it fit one page, she's open to suggestions.

For our records, Sat., June 3, 2015 the Questers group is coming to tour the Texier House.

Scheduling for the Texier House is as follows:

Oct. 19 – L. Franklin and L. Stahl

Nov. 2 - B. Titus and B. Diem

Nov. 16 - S. Tucker and R. Stomber

The tree lighting is Dec. 6 and we will be open before the tree lighting from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. We will decide about coverage for that day at our next meeting. The committee decided that we should put the Texier House opening on Dec. 6 on the town website and also on a sandwich board at Watchung Circle.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Submitted by  
Lynn Stahl  
Interim Secretary