

**Watchung Historical Committee
Minutes of the January 22nd, 2025 Meeting**

Attendance: Don Monetti, Maureen Greenbaum, Karen Jubin, Michael DeParto, Emily White, Chris Vander Fliet, Stephen Pote, and liaison Mayor Ron Jubin.

Absent: Tim Logan

The Meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM. Motion to by Mike DeParto to approve November 20th Historical Committee minutes. Second by Karen Jubin. All in favor of approving the minutes from the November 20th, 2024, Meeting. Minutes approved.

OATH OF OFFICE – Mayor Jubin

Mayor Jubin swore in Committee for another year. Maureen was not present at the swearing-in but came later to be sworn in separately by Mayor Jubin.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- Chair – Steve Pote nominated Chris Vander Fliet to be chosen Chair; Don seconded it; no one else nominated. Chris Vander Fliet was elected chair.
- Vice Chair – Don nominated Tim Logan as Vice Chair. This was seconded by Karen Jubin. While not present, Tim had indicated his willingness to take on the Vice Chair role if nominated. No other nominees. Tim Logan was elected Vice Chair.
- Secretary – Chris Vander Fliet nominated Steve Pote Secretary; this was seconded by Karen Jubin. No other members were nominated. Steve Pote was elected Secretary.

CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT – C. Vander Fliet

2025/2026 Timelines/Projects for 2025

COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES

Emily W – Table/Brook Hill Sign

Maureen G – Website Updates and Additions. Maureen encouraged input from everyone

Steve P – Security Email to the Borough. Steve contacted Administrator Jim D’Amato. Jim said he was going to set up a meeting upon Bill Hance’s return Several weeks back. Steve will reach out to Jim again. There is a lot to discuss related to the physical security of artifacts, as well as general security of the building.

Tim Logan – Facebook Posts – Not present

Newsletter Draft -- Spring issue due January 27th.

Texier House Museum Activity – Display dates (Greg V., Kurt W., Jay S., Sue T., Mike D., Tim L., Thomas S. & Parents, three Scouts from Troop 32). The group rearranged some display items to make future use of the new Eagle Scout project. Group on Saturday cleaned parts of the building, as well continued cleaned up (clarify) of photo naming standards used

Foveonics Scanning -- there was discussion about potential budgeting of second tier items to be scanned and/or better labeled by scanning professionals.

Photography of Texier House Artifacts – Interest in seeing “second tier” artifacts photographed, if perceived of fair value.

Gods Acre Sign – Councilperson Christine Ead said the sign is complete. We just need to wait for better weather before having it installed.

Scanning Day – We need to schedule another scanning day event.

Facebook Posts/Review for all Members – We need to beef up support and online create positive posts in support of the website.

Bob Mayers – It was mentioned that Bob was not in good health at the time of the meeting. We are sad to hear that on January 25th Bob passed away.

Laurie Wood Donation - \$260 donated to Historical; represents a portion of proceeds, the result of sales of wood carvings of Texier Building.

Watchung 100th Theme Song – former Watchung resident (and now from Texas) Mark Schlotterbeck and has written a song about Watchung. The song is called “The Roads that Made Us”. Mark will send us any suggested changes, as well as the lyrics to the song. It is thought that the song might breed some “inclusivity”.

VICE CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

No Report.

LIAISON REPORT – Mayor Jubin

Per Mayor and Council: Bylaws will be removed, and necessary ordinance changes will be incorporated, per Council decision.

Texier House – Routine Cleaning/Cleaning at least every two months.

OTHER PROJECTS/NEW BUSINESS

Thomas Schaefer Eagle Scout Project – Trivia for Watchung Sign at Borough Hall – Mike D/Chris VF

Historical Committee Shirts for the 100th Anniversary – Mike D. Stated that the 100th anniversary shirts should be a different color than those of other groups or committees.

Docent (guide) Training Program/Somerset County – Karen Jubin

T-Shirt Sales Wilson Memorial – Maureen Greenbaum stated that the committee should be appealing to Wilson Memorial Church since one of the T-Shirts is a depiction of Wilson.

Sue Tucker Recognition – Discussion (Spoke with Diddy, Betse, and Barbara. They are in support of some form of recognition for Sue Tucker)

Watchung Mysteries- Mike Departo has surfaced several Watchung Mysteries, worth looking into in more detail. Departo mentioned three such from the turn of the 20th century; all murders, mostly found in Courier News articles from the time.

Trivia for Watchung Sign – Various members came up with numerous new Watchung trivia questions and answers. They have been passed on to the Borough.

Scanning/Categorizing Scrapbooks – Maureen G. and her husband Howard researched several scanners and found that the IRIS Scan Desk 6 Scanner will best meet the needs of the committee. The committee voted unanimously to purchase this scanner.

Website Updates – Maureen Greenbaum

Vander Fliet reported that Maureen continues to update the website and encourages all members to visit and support it. We are looking for a Watchung high school age student to donate time to input data on the website. Mayor Jubin offered to talk to the administration at WHRHS to see about finding student(s) interested in working with us on the website.

2025 Budget – Our request for funds for 2025 was submitted to the Borough in the amount of \$15,00 (Upper Cost) and 13,500 (lower cost). Budget was approved.

Brook Hill Sign – Emily White is working towards an approach for restoring one side of the Brook Hill sign. One side is clearly in better shape; efforts will be made to restore the one side. Leaning towards keeping the better as is, the opposite side should have new lettering, but the same as what now exists. The lettering is basically stickers or decals.

Artifact Assessment Program – Will summarize next steps in March meeting.

Bruce Ryno Interview

It was mentioned again that the desire to interview Bruce Ryno, whether it be video or at least audio, to capture history as seen through former resident Bruce Ryno is of great

value. Bruce can provide a unique perspective, based on his time in Watchung (e.g., at one time the Art Center was owned by the Ryno Family.

SCHEDULE FOR TEXIER HOUSE OPENINGS

February 2nd

February 16th

March 2nd

March 16th

April 6th

April 20th

May 4th

May 18th

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Submitted by: Steve Pote

NEXT MEETING: February 19th at PM.

Attachments:

1. No Attachments