

**Watchung Historical Committee  
Minutes of the June 18th, 2025 Meeting**

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

**Absent:** Tim Logan and Frank Lazzano

The Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

**Journey Through the Past 2025 October 11<sup>th</sup> and October 12<sup>th</sup>**

Watchung will again participate in Journey Through the Past. In past years Watchung has received many positive comments about the museum. Insurance for the event was already secured from the town. Vander Fliet has requested volunteers/members participation at the two-day event.

**Memorial Day Ceremony Review**

In Bob Mayer's honor, a tree was planted and dedicated at the Memorial Day Ceremony. Thomas Schaefer's Eagle Project was unveiled. There was a significant number of visitors at the Texier House Museum at this event, with much participation from the Scouts of Troop 32 and Historical Members.

**Interview with Bruce Ryno**

Sue Tucker, Don Monetti, Bruce Ryno, and Chris Vander Fliet completed a long interview with Bruce Ryno on select historic homes and families of Watchung and the surrounding area. Bruce was a schoolteacher. Seth Alexander was kind enough to open his studio to us to use the space and professionally record the interview (audio).

**Wilson Memorial Flea Market**

A table was staffed by Maureen Greenbaum and Mike DeParto at the Wilson Memorial Flea Market held on June 7<sup>th</sup>. A single shirt was sold.

**Maureen G. (Continued work on Website)**

There continue to be further updates made to the Website, largely the work of Maureen. Maureen is again asking for contributions from others.

**Karen Jubin (Eaton Magazine, Costumes from Legend of Watchung)**

Karen ordered the Newsweek Magazine that showcased Congressman Eaton (also displayed downstairs in the Parlin Display case). She worked with Sue Tucker and Chris Vander Fliet to showcase articles from that magazine in the display case. She also moved costumes originally displayed in cases onto manakins in the Eaton Room.

**Reflections of Watchung**

Chris Vander Fliet is working to finish the film project Reflections of Watchung, a multi-year and very challenging project. Maureen Greenbaum believes that these videos should be YouTube shorts and not long videos as originally designed. Short or long, these video pieces can be timestamped for easy retrieval.

### **Watchung 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary T-shirts**

The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary T-shirts were provided to the DPW workers of Watchung.

### **VICE CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

**Tim Logan** - Tim Logan briefly reported with Emily White on the restoration of the Brook Hill Sign. There was a brief discussion on the location of where it should be installed at the Texier House.

### **LIAISON REPORT – Mayor Jubin**

Per Mayor and Council: Bylaws will be reviewed by the Council; from them, there might be ordinance changes. Ultimately, the bylaws will be removed.

Texier House – Routine cleaning at least every two months should take place. Ron is supportive of meeting to discuss adequacy of current security levels at Texier House. Steve Pote is arranging that meeting, where he will attend along with Mayor Jubin, Administrator D'Amato, and Police Chief Anderle.

It was concluded that the date of Watchung's incorporation was May 23, 1926. There was discussion about possibly doing something in January 2026 to kick off the year with something regarding Watchung's 100<sup>th</sup> year.

Steve suggested that the Historical Committee and the Mayor/Council focus on what is priority during this year of celebration for Watchung. There are a lot of potential great things that can be done; but valued resources and timeline need to be focused, and specific goals need to be identified.

### **OTHER PROJECTS/NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Website Updates**

Maureen Greenbaum continues to update and work on the website. The amount of information is impressive, and she continues to add pages and information every week. Thank you, Maureen!

#### **Flashback Quiz/5'x5' Scenes/Timeline Quiz**

Maureen Greenbaum proposed the idea of creating a 100<sup>th</sup>/250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary timeline at the Texier House Museum where visitors could pin a historical event to the correct date in history and if they get it correct, they can win a prize. She also proposed print outs of large photos that depict Watchung from years ago or a historical event and have cut outs of faces where people can photograph themselves with their faces showing.

### **Scanning Day**

Two dates over the summer are proposed for scanning/archiving days. July 10<sup>th</sup> and August 9<sup>th</sup>. More details to follow on these dates and availability for our members.

### **Watchung 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banner**

Mike DeParto will be coordinating with the town and ordering a banner that will be hung on the Texier House Museum. He passed around a draft design of this banner to the committee for review.

### **Historical Committee Shirts for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Mike DeParto will be working over the summer on ordering 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary shirts for all committee members to wear next year (2026). These shirts will be in the style of the mayor and council shirts, but in a burgundy color and have each of the members names on them. A form was passed around for everyone to fill out their shirt size and name as they would like it displayed on the shirt.

**Brook Hill Sign**– Emily White has led the refurbishing of the Brook Hill Sign; it is much improved over what had been abandoned in front of Brook Hill.

**Sue Tucker Recognition** – Discussion to move recognition letter to Mayor and Council. Chris Vander Fliet will distribute the letter originally written by Maureen Greenbaum to Ron Jubin and Council. It was suggested that we recognize Sue for all her assistance and knowledge relating to Watchung, including the Boy Scouts, Watchung real estate/buildings.

### **Photography of Texier House for 2025**

Vander Fliet will review the list of items and artifacts in the Texier House Museum and determine the items which were “secondary” in importance and determine the need for Russ to return to the Texier House Museum for a second round of photography for future digitization.

**100-Year timeline** - Historical Committee members should continue to add events which occurred during the 1926-2026 period.

## **SCHEDULE FOR TEXIER HOUSE OPENINGS**

**August 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**September 7<sup>th</sup>**

**September 21<sup>st</sup>**

**The Meeting was adjourned at 8:38 PM**

**Submitted by Steve Pote (Secretary)**

**Next Meeting: September 17<sup>th</sup> at 7PM**

**Attachments:**

- 1. No Attachments**