

Raritan Historical & Cultural Committee

Minutes of September 6, 2011

Attending: Jim Fidacaro
Tim Rack
Al Capetta
Deb Thomas
Jane Fidacaro
Adele Goetsch
Marie Lombardy *
Jo-Ann Liptak
Karen Eastlund

*Public Attendee

1. The meeting was called to order. We met in an upper room at Borough Hall so had no flag for the pledge.

2. Minutes: Jim Fidacaro and Adele Goetsch moved and seconded the motion to approve the August minutes. All voted in favor and the minutes were approved.

3. Old Business:

A) Photo project – no report

B) Oral Histories – Jim reported that September is a busy month for Herb Hall, so this project will continue later in September when they will tape the second part of Don Esposito's interview.

C) Notecards – They are selling. We currently have them at Raritan Apothecary and Tropianos. Mayor recommended we try Agway. Karen will take some to Agway. Also, they will be sold at the reenactment on Saturday.

D) Pews – There is no news. We sought ideas on how to create interest in them. Jim Fidacaro suggested they be listed on Craigslist. Also, SHIP may be able to use more. We will ask Bruce to put them on his website.

4. Treasury Report – no report. Debbie Thomas has proceeds from the sales of the notecards.

5. Train Station Museum – Greg Lobell and Adele and perhaps several others will go to see some train station museums in October.

6. Reenactment – Dan Soriano has offered monetary support if needed. We talked about tables being brought from DPW and decided that we did not need them. Deb, Adele, and Jane are baking. Karen will get lemonade. We are hoping for about 30 attendees. Karen reported that Joseph Frelinghuysen is planning to drive here from Martha's Vineyard for the reenactment, and is bringing the table. How could we ensure a good turnout? Karen mentioned that it is not too late to invite people, and brought up the idea of inviting older children who might be interested. The mayor suggested we reach out through scouts. Karen will make some calls. Jim Fidacaro will reach out to St. Ann's. The mayor has copies of the Knox-Porter Resolution ready for people to pick up. We don't know if Herb Hall can be there to film since he has several other engagements that day. We will ask Bruce if he can attend and take some pictures. Do we need microphones? Should we ask attendees to bring lawn chairs? Yes, we will ask the library to tell people this as they sign up. Please RSVP at the library so we have an idea of attendance! Committee members are asked to be at the library at noon to help with last minute arrangements.

7. Miscellaneous – On Saturday, 9/24 there will be an event at the riverfront, just after the 5K run at 10:30. It's being called A Taste of Raritan, and will include a series of tents in the early afternoon. Restaurant owners are being approached. The idea is to draw people to the river area. On Oct 15 the grad students from Rutgers who are working with us to develop this area will have a Meet&Greet and would like to hear our input about developing this area. They have already had a preliminary meeting with the mayor, etc., and are doing research about town. Ultimately they will present town with a tabletop model. It is noted that this is not the first attempt to work on this area of town. Although the area is near the river, B&B is the only business that floods. Frank Vanish may be interested in riverfront property.

Al Capetta brought a flyer from Madison, NJ, which highlights their historical society. Should we do something similar?

8. Public Comments – Marie Lombardy presented several pieces of interest to the committee. One was a picture of the 1920 eighth grade

graduating class from Raritan School. She also has a diploma from that year. Tim will scan these items. The mayor recognized a relative in the picture. Marie also donated to our committee a beautifully framed map of town from an 1873 Beers Atlas. Everyone was quite interested in studying the map. It will be hung in Borough Hall for the present. Many thanks to Marie for her generosity.

Greg has found several display cases from the reconstruction of a store and will secure them for us. He also reported that the benches for the Nevius Street bridge are selling well. He already has sold 7 of the possible 10. Discussion ensued about the various things that have been going on at the bridge. The county needs to put a camera on the bridge, and we need lights there.

9. The next meeting will be held on October 4 at 7pm.

10. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Eastlund
Secretary