

**Raritan Historical & Cultural Committee
Meeting of January 10th, 2011**

Attending: Adele Goetsch
Dan Soriano
Jane Fidacaro
James Fidacaro
Tim Rack
Al Capetta
Marie Lombardy *
Karen Eastlund
Deb Thomas

*Public Attendee

- 1. We stood to pledge allegiance** to the flag.
- 2. The minutes** of December were approved. Jim Fidacaro moved and Jane Fidacaro seconded the motion. All voted in favor of approval.
- 3. Election of officers** for 2012. Dan Soriano proposed the same slate of officers as last year. Al Capetta seconded the motion, and all voted in favor. Officers are:
 - Chair – Deb Thomas
 - Vice-Chair – Jim Fidacaro
 - Secretary – Karen Eastlund

We will need to get the mayor's list of appointees for the year. Marie was asked about appointment, but she declined at this time.

5. Treasury report: \$1010

6. Old Business

- A. Display cases* – Jane has the key so we can put pictures in them.
- B. Pews* – Marie listed the pews on Craig's List under the FREE category. She got 10 replies. Roy Mann, a VietNam vet who will refinish and cut pews down and try to sell them, took most of them and gave us a \$50 donation. David and Wayne took 7 pews and gave a donation of \$100. Amy took one pew. Scott took no pews after seeing them. Everyone, including the people at the county, was very nice and helpful. It was a good learning experience for Marie. Dan mentioned that Marie did a nice job of getting rid of the pews, but we should not do it again as the pews were officially property of the town, and should be treated as municipal property.
- C. Oral Histories* – Jim Fidacaro reported that they are still working on the church history project. He mentioned that Herb has videoed for us and has submitted bills, but Dan Jaxel has refused to pay him. The check should go to Somerville TV, Attn Herb Hall. Herb would like to conclude the tapings for us by December 2012. We hope to tape 7 more histories by then.

D. Notecards – We discussed printing a new set of cards, but decided to wait for a special event. We agreed that we should add captions on the cards, identifying the building and listing our committee as the promoting organization. Could we have a Historical & Cultural logo? We could ask high school kids to submit designs and we could offer a prize to the winner. Or, possibly Tim Rack's daughter could design a logo for us.

7. Train Station Museum – We would like to build up four exhibits, focused on various themes, that could be used throughout the year. We could have the Harding reenactor back, and and/or have an exhibit open during the weekend of the Basilone Parade. Or, we might have an exhibit about sports in Raritan. Al said that Frank Tropiano has a huge number of items that would make a fabulous military exhibit. These might be loaned to us for an exhibit. Maybe we could make the exhibit available on the weekend of the parade. We wondered if Greg Lobell is still able to meet with us, and whether he would still like to be involved with developing the museum. We believe he would like to see this project through to completion. We should start now to get the train station clean and painted and ready. Another idea would be to have Don Esposito speak about town history. We discussed logistics of this happening at the train station. Jane has portable speakers. We could ask people to bring lawn chairs. How many people could we accommodate there? Dan suggested that we concentrate on one event at the station and see how it works. We thought that a kick-off of military items from Frank Tropiano would be good. Deb will talk with Greg further about this.

8. Miscellaneous –

Meet Your Neighbor Day is moving to the bridge area.

The Irish Mail is now being displayed at the Raritan Public Library.

9. Public Comments – None.

10. Next meeting will be Tuesday, February 7th at 7 pm in Borough Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02pm. Many of us stayed to work on a display of pictures.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Eastlund, Secretary