

Raritan Historic & Cultural Committee

March 15, 2017

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting of February 15, 2017 was called to order at 7:00pm.
Minutes for the Meeting of February 15, 2017 are below.
Note – No Minutes for the December 2016 meeting as there was no quorum present

MEMBERS PRESENT AT MEETING:

Jim Fidacaro, President; Jane Fidacaro, Vice President; Karen Eastlund, Treasurer; Tim Rack, Secretary; Al Capetta; Ed Ruzbarsky;

PUBLIC ATTENDEES:

None

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer reported that we currently have \$595.15 in the Committee's trust fund. We hope the Boro Council will increase our operating budget to 1,000 dollars in the 2017 budget.

Old Business:

Walking Tour – The Committee continues to sell copies of the walking tour booklets in the Library. The Heritage Trail Association of Somerset County has requested that we schedule a walking tour sometime in September. Dates will be discussed.

Veterans of War Park – Plans for the park have been finalized, with construction to be completed by September 2017. Two memorial stones will be moved from the Borough Hall . The County plans on adding lighting and electrical outlets as well.

Speakers Bureau – The Library and the Historic Committee are looking to sponsor another presentation. A suggestion was made to have Alexander Hamilton from the American History Theater. Cost will be \$ 600 plus expenses. The Committee agreed to pay \$250 with the Library covering the balance.

Cataloging of Historic Items – All materials have been moved from our former office in the old school to the upper floor of the firehouse. It still needs to be sorting and cataloged.

Slide Presentation – No progress to report. The Committee will create a Powerpoint slide presentation of Raritan's history to be presented to schools and Senior Citizen groups. Tim Rack volunteered to assist with the creation of the PowerPoint presentation.

Washington School Artifacts – Jim Fidacaro met with Matt Loper of Somerset County regarding preserving some items from Washington School when it is demolished. A monument has been designed and will be installed along First Avenue after the school has been demolished.

Picture Book – Marie Lombardy volunteered to create a Then and Now book of old and new pictures of Raritan for publication. There is no progress yet.

History of Fire Department – Jim Fidacaro and Al Capetta will record an interview with Carl Memoli on March 11, 2017. Carl is well versed on the history of the Raritan Fire Department.

Veterans History Project – Al Capetta suggested we create a history of each of the veterans depicted on the Banners. This would include photos, stories, and other facts. This will be started after the Fire Department History is completed.

League of Historical Societies of NJ – The Committee has joined the League of Historical Societies of NJ. The annual cost is \$40 and the League advertises events and holds workshops on different topics.

Elevator for Fire House – Jim Fidacaro met with Don Esposito on January 25 regarding funding for the installment of an elevator to the second floor of the Anderson Street Fire House. One of original grants from the Somerset County Historical Commission was to refurbish the 2nd floor into a meeting room. There was some discussion among the Committee as to whether an elevator was needed if the firehouse becomes a museum. Further discussion will occur when we get additional information.

Committee Membership – Keith James formally resigned from the Committee. The President would like to attempt to recruit another member for the Committee.

2017 Goals – The Committee would like to complete the following goals for 2017:

- Complete the PowerPoint presentation
- Write and publish the Then and Now book
- See to the completion of Veterans Park and the Washington School Memorial
- Connect with the League of Historical Societies of NJ
- Identify veterans from earlier wars from Raritan so they can be honored
- Expand displays of historical artifacts by utilizing the new library addition
- Broaden involvement of other people into the Committee

New Business - None

2017 Meeting Dates - 2017 meetings of the Historic and Cultural Committee will be held on the following dates:

April 19

May 17

June 21
July 19
August 16
September 20
October 18
November 15
December 20

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Motion was approved and meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim Rack, Secretary