

Historic & Cultural Committee

Minutes of February 27, 2019

Attending: Christine Torres, Zach Bray, Bob McGinley, Jim Fidacaro, Al Capetta, Tim Rack, Karen Eastlund

The meeting was opened with the pledge of allegiance.

The minutes of November 2018 and the minutes of January 2019 were approved.

Treasurer's Report: We have \$800.15 in our trust fund. We have been allotted \$1,000 as our budget for 2019, although that will not be approved until April. Jim reported difficulty in getting certain bills paid.

Old Business:

A) Bench Project – We have 3 images turned in and we need more. Art teachers at the high school now responding to our requests. Jim will extend the deadline to April 1st. We discussed the possibility of using photographs. We don't want to lose **the grant because of lack of submissions. Jim reviewed his list for suggested images of town.**

B) Karen will submit an article requesting artifacts of Raritan to The Breeze and The Courier News.

C) Karen reported on the artifact conservation workshop. Conservation is a huge topic to explore. For now, we can refer to the Nat'l Park Service Museum Handbook: <https://www.nps.gov/Museum/publications/handbook.html> There are also many videos on YouTube showing museum conservation practices. The NJ Association of Museums offers a free artifact assessment program with follow-up suggestions for next steps. Our 1873 ledger from the mills and the 1917 wool blanket should be stored in acid free boxes.

D) Bob Mayers is a local author of *Revolutionary New Jersey: Forgotten Towns & Crossroads of the American Revolution*. He charges \$150 for a one-hour program. He has spoken at the Pentagon and West Point. Karen recommends him and has contact information.

E) Jane and Karen went to Frank Tropiano's office to borrow artifacts for a WWI exhibit. Frank was very generous in loaning materials and the new exhibit will be ready within the week.

F) There is also a new exhibit at the library highlighting the history of farming in Raritan.

G) Jim thanked those who helped move our collection of materials to the **storage** facility on Rt. 28. We need 5ft shelves and will watch for a good buy.

New Business:

A) Nominating Committee: Bob McGinley, Tim Rack & Christine Torres will make up a slate of officers and report back in March.

B) Tom Kubrak has asked for someone to speak about Raritan's history at a meeting Jacobus Vanderveer House in Bedminster. Anyone interested should speak to Jim.

C) Tim shared several options for **maps highlighting the historic points** in town. These would be offered free in businesses around town and would be great PR. We would need to find funding, and perhaps we should see if Somerville is interested in sharing this project. Zach will take this idea to a Regional Center meeting.

D) The mayor is updating his website. Check it out!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Eastlund
Secretary