

Minutes of the Raritan History & Cultural Committee February 21, 2024

- Committee called to order at 6:34PM
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Members in attendance: Karen Eastlund, Ed Ruzbarsky, Tim Rack, Joyce Tronolone, Lisa D'Angelo, Debbie Thomas, Gail Ostapczuk, James Fidacaro, Jane Fidacaro
- Excused Members: Dawn Wilde, Frank Del Rocco, Mark Esposito
- Discussion of Proposal by Douglas Distefano
 - Monument Conservation Partners – specialty in bronze statues and objects
 - Wants to restore or conserve Basilone statue
 - Using baking soda blasting to clean statues
 - Washing with non-ionic detergent and scrub brush, baking soda and calcium carbonate to clean it. Take statue to original bronze color, and then bring it back to the chocolate brown that the sculptor intended
 - Do things that are reversible
 - Can teach DPW staff how to maintain throughout the year, what to do and what not to do
 - Would help maintain the original color for another 75+ years with proper upkeep
 - Upkeep would take about an hour of time
- Secretary's Minutes from 11/2023
 - Motion to accept. Seconded. All approve
- Secretary's Minutes from 12/2023
 - Motion to accept. Seconded. All approve
- Secretary's Minutes from 01/2024
 - Changes: \$1251.13 was given back to borough
 - Motion to accept as amended. Seconded. All approve
- Treasurer's Report
 - Current temporary budget: \$750
 - Storage paid
 - Collected \$75.00 for ornament sales and \$47.00 for booklet sales.
 - Trust Fund has \$1199.15
 - Additional \$65 from sales
 - \$40 membership in works
 - Request from Tori for record of sales going forward
 - Motion to accept. Seconded. All approve.
- **Old Business**
 - Facebook Page
 - Everything looks great
 - Storage Updates
 - Running out of room. Thought to consider buying larger shelves
 - Library Programs
 - Both programs changed from 6:30 to 6:00
 - Washington School signs received
 - Sign attached on north side
 - Wood on windows is falling apart
 - Reach out to Somerville to ask who they might have used
 - Lisa will take on initial steps on project
 - Postcards
 - Where to post: Library, Boro Hall,
 - Trolley Exhibit
 - Waiting to hear from Bill as to where the exhibit will move to next
 - Sign at Jughandle – Welcome to Raritan sign damaged. Ask Brad to fix

- Library Programs for 2024
 - Joyce will charter the programs this year
 - David Lang – potential speaker
- Field of Heroes for 2026
 - Solar lights for night
 - Washington School site
 - Frank will charter this
- Shirts are almost done
- BR School Board Rep Pepe
 - Thanks for mounting the Washington School plaque
 - Statue in Newark was given to the BOE, will go to the Basilone field
 - JFK 60th Anniversary Fall 2024 – Event for students during the day and event for students/families at night
 - Post on the Facebook page asking for items for 60th event (yearbooks, etc.)
- **New Business**
 - Election of Officers
 - Secretary: Gail Ostapczuk
 - President: Karen Eastlund
 - Vice President/Treasurer: Ed Ruzbarsky
 - Motion to accept, seconded. Approved
 - Open House at Frank Tropiano's
 - Waiting until he heals from injury
 - Presentation to Somerville History Roundtable
 - Tim is working on presentation, will show in March
 - Meeting in Somerville is 4/8/2024 in the Historic Firehouse
 - Donation of two Raritan postcards & five 78rpm records
 - Motion to put second plaque on Washington School Monument
 - Seconded. All approve.
- Meeting Adjourned 8:02 PM