

Minutes of the Raritan Historic & Cultural Committee March 19, 2025

- Committee called to order at 6:32PM
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Members in attendance: Ed Ruzbarsky, Gail Ostapczuk, James Fidacaro, Jane Fidacaro, Tim Rack, Karen Eastlund, Dave Fritzingler, Debbie Thomas, Mark Esposito, Joyce Tronolone
- Excused Members: Dawn Wilde
- Unexcused Members: None
- Visitors: None
- Membership: Opening for 2 alternate positions
- Secretary's Minutes from 02/2025
 - Three changes
 - Motion to accept as amended. Seconded. All approve.
- Treasurer's Report
 - Balance in temporary budget \$685
 - Trust Fund \$1199.15
 - Motion to accept. Seconded. All approve.
- **Old Business**
 - Dawn was sworn in
 - Two openings for alternates
 - Mural – waiting for warm weather to begin work
 - Motion to request the design (photo) of the mural to provide comments on prior to April committee meeting for final vote. Seconded. All approved.
 - Program Options
 - Matthew Dodd – return visit in October '25
 - Need to push the program to a weeknight due to uncertainty of the location of the Food Bank
 - Flag Presentation
 - Matthew Dodd – 2026
 - What month for presentation – May or September – Karen will check with him
 - Revolutionary Presentation
 - Paul Soltis – George Washington at NJ Middlebrook
 - Paul Soltis – wants to work up a program on Frederick Frelinghuysen – the owner of the home that is now the library. Looking at June. Unknown cost
 - David Lang – The Battle of Bound Brook. Would be willing to do a library program or one during a committee meeting. Has several presentations aside from the Battle of Bound Brook
 - Larry Kidder – New Jersey Militia Program, how they were not optional to join but required
 - Patricia Wells – Tuesday April 22nd 6:30PM. Mrs. Bennett follows the Army (Revolutionary). \$150 fee
 - Alyssa Dupuy – New programs for 250th anniversary
 - Facebook
 - Thanks to Jim and Dawn for all the posts
- **New Business**
 - Parade will be 9/21/25
 - Motion to participate. Seconded. All approve
 - Thanks to Deb Thomas and Rosemary Ciriani for organizing storage
 - Knox Porter
 - Documents via Councilman Armahizer – copies of original documents. Hoping to present these in July for the opening of the new municipal building
 - Larger banner to be printed
 - Motion to buy the banner. Seconded. All approve
 - Permission for smaller banner to be hung on the walking bridge
 - Motion to seek permission from Somerset County for the banner to be hung on the Raritan side of the bridge. Seconded. All approve.

- Project ideas for 2025 and 2026 (250th anniversary of USA)
 - Hometown Heros – work on publicity and details
 - Gettysburg Flags. 12x18 sized flag.
 - 48 - \$105
 - 144 - \$300
 - Possibly putting them on the walking bridge, Veterans Park, or Washington School. Veterans Park is the preferred location
 - Debating the price per flag
 - Flags will be up for 1 month in July 2026
 - Jim will look into the cost from other organizations who did something similar.
 - Sign at Cornell House – being put on the back burner
 - Moving Frelinghuysen display to Boro Hall
 - Linda is looking for someone to give a presentation for the Somerville Round Table on John Basilone – Bruce Doorly has a power point presentation but won't present. Tim will present his presentation

➤ **Meeting Adjourned 7:35 PM**