

Raritan Historic & Cultural Committee January 2016

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting of January 20, 2016 was called to order at 7:00pm.
Minutes for the Meeting of January 20, 2016 are below.

MEMBERS PRESENT AT December 16 MEETING:

Jim Fidacaro, President; Jane Fidacaro, Vice President; Tim Rack, Secretary; Marie Lombardy, Keith James; Jim Foohey, Council Liaison

PUBLIC ATTENDEES:

Ed Ruzbarsky, Mayor McMullin

Treasurer's Report: No report. Previously we had \$930.40 - collected through sales and from Borough.

The President introduced Mayor McMullin to the Committee. The Mayor swore in Jane Fidacaro to a new session. The Mayor said he would also be interested in seeing a master listing of the items we currently have with the goal of preserving this material.

Jim Foohey was introduced as the new liaison to the Council.

Ed Ruzbarsky's term in office expired so he is attending as a member of the Public. He will hopefully be reinstated at the next Council meeting.

Old Business:

Walking Tour – Marie and Keith are still working on final draft, almost complete. Waiting on further information on trolley line. When completed we will print an initial run of 50 copies. The Committee is looking to sponsor tours sometime in April. Both the new tour and the riverside tour will be offered. Notification and sign-up sheet will be in the Library. The Committee may also start to post information at the town kiosk near Quick Check.

Woolen Mills – No status report. Karen Eastlund is working on a presentation about the Woolen Mills and has asked for assistance from Committee members.

Museum status – The President suggested setting up a meeting with Duke Farms to discuss the possibilities of using the Castle or the Pump House for a museum. Both the Mayor and Jim Foohey spoke about continuing renovations to the 2nd floor of the firehouse. Jim Foohey will report on grant money remaining at the February meeting. Many people would like to donate items if we can find a location for a museum to house them.

Committee Presence on Town Website – Currently there is just a list of Committee member’s names on the website. The mayor would like to have the Minutes and the agenda posted as soon as possible after each Committee meeting. The Committee would like to add information to the website: discs at Library, upcoming meetings, walking tour dates, etc. Bruce Doorly has created YouTube videos of interviews that we can link to.

Firehouse Interviews – The interview questions are not yet complete, but Carl Memoli will create a slideshow of old photos to be incorporated into the interview. Herb Hall will video the interview.

Raritan Pub – Jane Fidacaro reported that she was hoping to meet with the owner of the Raritan Pub regarding displaying old pictures. Jane had previously taken some old photos to the Raritan Pub which are on display in a small area.

Veterans of War Memorial – Jim Fidacaro stated he would like to explore getting a light for the Basilone Statue, and possibly to create a memorial park similar to one in Franklin Township. Jim is looking for someone to chair the Memorial Committee and come up with ideas to present to the Council.

Jim discussed his idea of the light with some members of the town council and old Mayor Decicco will talk to his contacts at PSEG regarding the light.

Speakers Bureau – The Committee is looking for ideas for presentations in 2016.

Committee Goals - Goals for the committee for 2016 as well as long term were discussed. Goals included:

- Create a collage of the Raritan postcards
- Change material in showcase in Municipal Building
- Reorganize the pictures in the Community Room
- A location for the museum. If no museum possible then occasional displays at the Library or Firehouse.
- Complete and conduct the walking tour.
- Conduct additional historic interviews.
- Catalog the historic items the Committee has received.
- Develop ideas for the Veterans Memorial

Library Expansion – No report.

The State has approved the library expansion and there may be an opportunity for the Committee to display some artifacts in the new library community room. This could also be a future meeting place for the committee. The library committee has asked for our input for ideas on what we’d like to see in the expansion. Pavers are being sold to raise money for the new addition.

New Business

Jim Fidacaro asked if the members could bring ideas to the February meeting.

Meetings are scheduled for the following days in 2016:

February 17

March 16

April 20

May 18

June 15

July 20

August 17

September 21

October 19

November 16

December 21

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Motion was approved and meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim Rack
Secretary