

Raritan Historic & Cultural Committee February 15, 2017

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting of January 18, 2017 was called to order at 7:00pm. Minutes for the Meeting of January 18, 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 Eastiund, Treasurer; Tim Rack, Secretary; Al Capetta; Ed Ruzbarsky; Marie Lombardy

PUBLIC ATTENDEES:

None

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer reported that we currently have \$261.94 left of our yearly budget. There is an additional \$595.15 in the Committee's trust fund.

Old Business:

Walking Tour Booklets - The Committee continues to sell copies of the walking tour booklets in the Library.

Museum Status - No report. With the Mayor's proposal to build a new firehouse, police station, rescue squad bay and Recreation office/complex on the Washington School property, the potential now exists for the Anderson Street firehouse to become a museum. The Committee submitted a Needs Assessment to the Mayor in June.

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 with an additional 4 stones representing WW1, WW 2, Korea and the Vietnam wars. 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 Don Esposito do a talk and/or a question and answer session about Raritan's history.

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 sorted and cataloged.

Slide Presentation - No progress to report. The Committee will create a Power Point 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 - Jim Fidacaro asked for a volunteer to spearhead a project involving the creation and publishing of a Then and Now book of old and new pictures of Raritan. Marie Lombardy volunteered to create the book. There is no progress yet.

History of Fire Department - Jim Fidacaro and Al Capetta will record an interview with Carl Memoli on January 21. 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 NT - 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.

New Business

Elevator for Fire House - Jim Fidacaro will be meeting with Don Esposito on January 25 regarding funding for the installment of an elevator to the second floor of the Anderson Street Fire House. The original grant from the Somerset County Historical Commission was to refurbish the 2nd floor into a meeting room.

Library Open House - Construction is completed on the Library addition and they are waiting for a CO from the construction official. The official Open House will probably take place in March.

Committee Membership -. With one of the Committee members being unable to attend, the President would like to move one of the Alternate members into a full term position and attempt to recruit another member for the Committee.

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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

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

February 15

March 15

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