

## Raritan Historic & Cultural Committee Minutes for June 21, 2017

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting of June 21, 2017 was called to order at 7:00pm.  
Minutes for the Meeting of June 21, 2017 are below.

**MEMBERS PRESENT AT MEETING:**

Jim Fidacaro, President; Jane Fidacaro, Vice President; Tim Rack, Secretary; Ed Ruzbarsky; Joyce Tronolone; Jim Foohey

**PUBLIC ATTENDEES:**

None

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer reported that we currently have \$595.15 in the Committee's trust fund and \$750 from the Borough budget.

**Old Business:**

**Walking Tour** – The walking tour requested by the Heritage Trail Association of Somerset County is tentatively scheduled for September 16, though we are still awaiting confirmation. Jane, Karen and Joyce have agreed to conduct the tour. We have printed an additional 50 tour books for each tour at a cost of \$49.00..

**Veterans of War Park** – Plans for the park have been finalized The tentative schedule is for bids to be received by June 1, the contract awarded sometime between June 13th and 27<sup>th</sup>, construction to begin by July 1, and a tentative completion date of September 1. Two memorial stones will be moved from the Borough Hall. The County plans on adding lighting and electrical outlets as well.

**Speakers Bureau** – Joyce Tronolone is investigating future presentations. One possibility is Roebing's Legacy about the Roebing family of Trenton. The Committee asked if there might be a presentation available on the local Native Americans who lived here, Joyce will investigate.

**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 sorting and cataloged.

**Slide Presentation** – The Committee is creating Powerpoint slide presentation of Raritan's history to be presented to schools and Senior Citizen groups. Tim Rack received captions for the photos from Jim Fidacaro, Jane Fidacaro, and Karen Eastlund and will incorporate them into the presentation. It will be presented during the July Committee meeting for editing.

**Washington School Artifacts** – The demolition company is on site and should begin soon. A monument has been designed and will be installed along First Avenue after the school has been demolished.

**Picture Book** – The Committee will create a Then and Now book of old and new pictures of Raritan for publication. The Committee will start work on the book in August or September.

**History of Fire Department** – An announcement was put in the Breeze newspaper regarding the availability at the Library of the Committee's historic interviews.

**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.

**Elevator for Fire House** – Further discussion will occur when we get additional information.

**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

**Library Displays** – The Committee created a display of artifacts in one of the new Library display cases. We plan on doing different themes throughout the year. Karen Eastlund suggested we create a display of old lunch boxes near the beginning of the school year. To that end, Karen asked the Committee to loan her any old lunch boxes they may have. An appeal for old lunchboxes will be put in the Breeze newspaper in July.

Addendum 6/28 – The Breeze has already gone to print so the notice will be put on their website instead.

**Historic Fire House Directors** - The Mayor may ask the Historic and Cultural Committee to oversee work being done on the historic firehouse. The plan is to ensure that only work specified in the grant is completed and not extra or alternate construction.

**Vacancy** – There is still an opening on the Committee. Jim Fidacaro asked the members to put forth anyone that may be interested.

**Scrapbook** - Ed Ruzbarsky has been collecting articles and information about the Historic & Cultural Committee into a scrapbook. Ed asked members to send him any information they get.

**BRHS West Materials** – Bruce Doorly said he has a box of Bridgewater Raritan West High School memorabilia from Karen Verelli to donate to the Committee. The Committee asked Bruce to hold onto the material until we have a place to store/display it.

**New Business:**

**Digitize Old Newspapers** – Bruce Doorly would like to digitize the old newspapers currently on microfiche in the County library, and asked the Committee what they thought of the idea. The Committee agreed that at this time, there is no reason to spend the money needed and asked how many people look up material now on the microfiche to justify the time and expense.

Table at Basilone Parade – Though there will not be a Riverfest this year, the Parade Committee has decided to set up an art display in the park for after the parade. The Committee voted to set up a table there to promote the Historic and Cultural Committee. The table will be manned by Jane Fidacaro and Joyce Tronolone and will offer walking tour booklets for sale.

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

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 7:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tim Rack, Secretary