

Raritan Historical & Cultural Committee

January 17, 2018

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7p.m. Note no meeting was held in December.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jim Fidacaro, Jane Fidacaro, Karen Eastlund, Tim Rack, Al Capetta, Marie Lombardy, Ed Ruzbarsky, Patrick Mastice, Christine Torres, Zack Bray.

PUBLIC ATTENDEES:

Ned Lombardy

New Members:

The President welcomed two new members to the Committee, Pat Mastice and Christine Torres, as well as Councilman Zack Bray who will be the new liason from the Borough Council. Mayor McMullin swore in the members and thanked the Committee for its hard work.

Officer Reports:

Treasurer's Report - We have \$621.29 in our yearly budget account, and \$595.15 in our trust fund. We purchased a portable PA system, the cost will come off of our 621.29 account. The account amount remaining will reported at our next meeting.

Secretary Report: - No official meeting was held in December so there are no Minutes.

Vice President - Items to report will be covered during the meeting.

President - The President gave a synopsis of items accomplished during 2017:

- Completed PowerPoint presentation about historic structures in Raritan.
- Completed the Veterans Park partnership project with the County.
- Washington School demolition completed and partnership project with County for monument started.
- Initiated historic displays in new Library annex
- Presented "A Visit with Alexander Hamilton" in association with the library.
- Continue to sell award winning tour booklets.
- Added interview with Carl Memoli regarding the history of the Raritan Fire Department to collection of historic recollections.

Committee Reports:

Exhibit Cases - A new display about Kitchen Heritage was installed in the Library annex. The display includes ethnic cookbooks and old kitchen gadgets and equipment highlighting Raritan's diverse community.

Speakers Bureau - No update report. At the last meeting in November 2017, the Committee decided on Mary Todd Lincoln, with Abigail Adams as a second choice. Joyce will try and book it for April.

Scrap Book – Ed Ruzbarsky continues to collect articles, pictures, and other information about the Historic and Cultural Committee.

Old Business:

Walking Tour – Received 105.00 dollars (donation for walking tours) and deposited into our trust fund.

Washington School – Demolition is complete. Jim Fidacaro has the 1935 lamp from the school, and Tim offered to restore it with the final resting place being the museum. Ed Ruzbarsky requested that the lamp be appraised first before restoring it, Jim Fidacaro will have the appraisal done.

Veteran’s Park – Al Capetta suggested the Committee plant a tree in Veterans Park to commemorate all veterans. It was suggested we plant a blue spruce which can then be decorated at Christmas and possibly other holidays. The Committee will look into purchasing the tree from Raritan Agway for planting sometime around April, depending on the weather.

Firehouse – The mayor has requested that the Historic Committee oversee the firehouse renovations. The architects, the DI Group Architecture (Emily Hammer and Rich Aldariso) are creating plans building upgrades including an elevator to what will become a meeting room on the second floor.

Artifacts – Karen Eastlund found information on protecting historical artifacts. Karen will do additional research and will report back to the Committee.

PA System – Jim Fidacaro has purchased a portable PA system to be used during ceremonies and events. PA System is stored at the Public Works Building.

Miniature John Basilone Statues – Jim Fidacaro has found a trophy business in Flemington that may be able to provide miniatures of the John Basilone Statue for us to sell at events. The company will be getting prices for Jim and we will discuss it at a future meeting.

New Business:

Parliamentary Procedures - The President would like the Committee to adopt Parliamentary Procedures for all future meetings.

Officer Responsibilities – The President outlined the roles and responsibilities of the Committee Officers. A Nominating Committee was appointed to recommend members to be nominated for President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary, which will be voted in at the February meeting. Karen Eastlund, Al Capetta, Ed Ruzbarsky and Tim Rack were appointed to the Nominating Committee.

Goals for 2018 – The President outlined, and asked for suggestions, regarding goals for the new year. The following were suggested:

- Completion and publication of the Then and Now book;
- Monitoring progress of firehouse meeting room and elevator project.
- Broader involvement of community with the Committee;

- Manufacture of the John Basilone miniature statues;
- Sort and archive photos, material, artifacts, etc.;
- IH & C Committee will assist with 70th anniversary of Raritan Borough events. Zack Bray will invite the Event Committee chairperson to a Historic Committee meeting to collaborate on events.

2018 Meeting Dates:

February 21

March 21

April 18

May 16

June 20

July 18

August 15

September 19

October 17

November 21

December 19

Next meeting will be held on February 21

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Rack

Secretary

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