

# History & Culture Committee

## Minutes, November 21, 2018

**Attending:** Jim Fidacaro, Jane Fidacaro, Zach Bray, Christine Torres, Ed Ruzbarsky, Al Capetta, Joyce Tronolone, Karen Eastlund

**Excused:** Pat Mastice, Tim Rack, Marie Lombardy

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The **minutes** of the October meeting at the library were approved by unanimous vote. Christine Torres initiated the motion, Ed seconded it.

**Treasurer:** Jane reported that we have \$776.15 in our trust account and \$552.57 in our yearly budget account.

### **Old Business:**

**Bench Project** – Since our initial meeting at the library we have 8 artists who will submit work and one picture that has been finished and submitted.

**Printing of Tour Books:** Jim had 50 copies of each tour book printed at Somerset County Printing. The books are beautifully printed and cost us a total of \$50.

**Storage Facility:** The town counsel looked into renting storage space for our artifacts at Affordable Storage but due to insurance issues the project is on hold. Dan Jaxel might have to search further to find storage facility. Jim asked for help moving our collection once we have a new site.

**Veteran's Day Ceremony:** There was a very poor showing for the Veteran's Day ceremony at the new Veteran's Park led by Mayor McMullin. More efforts to publicize it will be needed in the future. Nonetheless, the county ranger was available to unlock the electric receptacle, and their cooperation was appreciated.

### **New Business:**

Joyce reported on a number of options for a historical program to be held at the library, funded by our committee. After some discussion, Chris Torres moved that we fund a program called *Soldiers Without Guns: Women Defense Workers of WWII*. Al seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. We will fund the program at the cost of \$350. This program will take place in May, but if possible we would like to pay for it out of this year's budget. Zach Bray offered his help in obtaining a check from our committee to the library.

**Artifacts for Display:** Jim reported that some communities advertise for various artifacts that will be displayed for a limited time in their libraries. Could we do this? The committee will pick a theme and Karen will follow up on advertising and

organizing this project in January. If WWI is the theme, she could speak with Frank Tropiano to see what he would loan us. Also Don Esposito has a collection of artifacts that he might loan, as does John Pacifico. Marie has history on the Lutheran Church. More to come... Advertisement should explain what is meant by "artifact" and give examples.

We received a set of reproduction **WWI post cards**. Ed has framed them and brought them for us to see.

A **Christmas gathering** was discussed, time and place to be determined.

**WWI Vets:** Bruce Doorly went to a meeting about WWI and met a man who has pictures of some of Raritan's WWI vets that could be found on the internet. Jim got three good pictures to be put on banners for display in town. Ed Danbury will take care of getting the banners made. Ed also may know artists who would submit their work for the bench project.

**The Then & Now book** project has been cancelled. Jane and Christine looked into this project and felt that we have nothing that has not already been published. Also, it was suggested with Bruce to make a book of some of his findings, but he has looked into it and decided that it is not worth the money to do so. We still have the Power Point pictures on the Tour of Raritan and would like to convert the power point presentation onto a CD which we could then take to local schools to share the history of the town.

Zach told us that he may or may not be assigned to our committee next year. The committee would like Zach to remain for continuity reasons. A request will be sent to the Mayor by Jim.

Christine moved that the meeting be **adjourned**. Joyce seconded the motion and we voted to adjourn at 7:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Eastlund, Secretary