

Raritan Historic & Cultural Committee

Minutes May 15, 2019

Attending: Christine Torres, Tim Rack, Jim Fidacaro, Jane Fidacaro, Joyce Tronolone, Al Capetta, Karen Eastlund

Excused: Bob McGinley, Ed Ruzbarsky, Zack Bray

Public Attendee: Tom Kubrak

Approval of Minutes: Tim Rack moved to accept the minutes of April 17, 2019. Joyce seconded the motion and all voted in favor of acceptance.

Treasurer's report: We have \$815 in our trust fund. Currently we have \$919.14 in our yearly budget, but that will be depleted by \$200 when we pay Bob Mayers for his presentation on June 13th. We need to allocate funds for a filing cabinet. Bob McGinley is working on it.

Jim expressed thanks to Joyce for the program that she lined up for this month: Soldiers without Guns. It was very well received.

Ed Danbury's people are having trouble with one of the WWI banners. We will need \$255 from our budget for the three banners once they are done. Christine moved that we pay this amount, and Tim seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. We'll have these banners by September.

Old Business:

A) We will underwrite a June 13th program at the library when Bob Mayers will speak about the revolutionary war in our area. Jane will do paperwork for the check. The check will be sent after the program due to rules that we cannot submit paperwork until after the program is given.

B) Zack has spoken with Jim Ruggieri about the possibility of a map highlighting historic buildings in Raritan, a possible joint venture with Somerville. We are waiting for further information.

New Business:

- A) New proposal regarding our \$15,000 grant from the county.
- Committee comments regarding the bench idea were inconclusive.
 - Jim met with Angela Knowles, the town architect, to get ideas
 - Three ideas were put forward:
 1. Bench project as previously discussed
 2. Propose signs to put along Anderson & Thompson Streets
 3. Paint a mural on the trestle bridge over First Avenue

- Ed reminded us that we would need permission from NJ transit in order to paint the bridge. He asked about the bridge over 202-206.
- Christine Torres mentioned that this idea came from the Economic Development Committee
- Jim stated that our committee was awarded the grant money, and we will make the final decisions about the project
- Christine hopes we can work together
- **A VOTE** was taken: we unanimously voted to work on this project

Questions from Audience: Tom Kubrak mentioned that he would like someone to speak about the history of Raritan. Tim and Jane are both interested. Tom also said he can suggest some artists.

Karen will get in touch with the Courier because our article requesting artifacts has not been run.

Motion to adjourn: Christine & Al moved to adjourn. Unanimous vote at 7:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Eastlund, Secretary