

Raritan Historic & Cultural Committee

Minutes, June 19, 2019

Attending: Bob McGinley, Zach Bray, Joyce Tronolone, Karen Eastlund, Ed Ruzbarsky, Jim Fidacaro, Tim Rack

Excused: Jane Fidacaro, Al Capetta, Christine Torres

Absent: Pat Mastice

President Fidacaro called the meeting to order at 7pm with the pledge to the flag.

Treasurer's Report: We have \$815 in our trust fund and \$919.14 in our yearly budget fund. The budget will be \$200 less next month after we pay our speaker, Bob Mayers.

Old Business

A) Our June 13th program, given by Bob Mayers, was very well received. He was interesting, we learned new facts, and the turnout was very good. Jim thanked everyone who was involved or attended this program.

B) Map Highlights of Raritan – Zach spoke with people in the Regional Center and they were not interested in this project. Bridgewater did not feel that it would work for them. We can explore this project with Somerville.

C) WWI Banners – There has been a problem with one of the banners so we were not able to see them at the meeting. They will cost us \$85 each, for a total of \$255 for all three. The new ones will be the same design, but the material will be more weather resistant.

D) Basilone Parade – Our banners will be up, and we might ask to help in the library that day. Tim described a WWII event he attended in Reading, PA. It was a huge event with military vehicles, historic aircraft, reenactors, etc. Tim felt that we might be able to get some of the vehicles to come to the parade. He will get in touch with Bruce about this.

E) Grant proposal – We discussed how to move forward with our project. Jim explained that we would not be able to paint on the overpasses as voted in our May meeting, due to lead abatement. He opened the floor to other ideas. We all aired our ideas and opinions. Zach shared an idea from Angela for a moveable parklet that would take a sparking space along Somerset St. Although it is an interesting idea, we were not sure it fit our town. After further discussion, Ed suggested that we go forth with three projects:

- 1 – Six or seven benches be covered as previously discussed
- 2 – We have local artists paint murals on the walls of Bagelicious or Mangia Buono
- 3 – We put new signs (similar to Entering historic Raritan) on both ends of

Somerset St.

The cost would be \$200 per bench and \$1,000 per mural. We have not yet priced the signage. We could move ahead on these projects and look for further projects as we go.

Bob moved to accept these three projects, Ed seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Jim will talk with Angela Knowles, our town planner, to make sure that this will be acceptable with the county as per the grant.

New Business

Jim was contacted by Mayor McMullin to see if we have anything to add to a package for our sister city in Italy. Jim gave him our two walking tour booklets which will be translated into Italian and taken to Italy.

Bob moved we adjourn at 8:08pm. Tim seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Eastlund, Secretary