



**WEST MILFORD HERITAGE COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**NOVEMBER 14, 2023**

**PRESENT:** Tonya Cubby, Thomas Decker, Kristen Koerner, Hans Niederstrasser  
Kerry O'Brien, Robert Pawlo, Michael Van Hooker  
**ABSENT:** Harry Bedford, Council Liaison Michael Chazukow

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

- Current Utility Invoices: Information was not available. We will no longer be receiving this information. DWP will be signing off on these invoices going forward. They should be removed from the agenda going forward: PSE&G, Rockland Electric, UGI Services.
- Trust Account: Not available at this time. Tonya Cubby will be requesting reports from the Finance Office.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

- The October 10, 2023 minutes were unanimously approved on a **motion** by Robert Pawlo with a **second** by Kerry O'Brien.

**MUSEUM BUSINESS:**

- Reviewed and approved the 2024 meeting dates, which will continue to be the second Tuesday of each month.
- Notices for re-appointment to the Heritage Committee were sent out. Tonya Cubby reminded everyone to respond to the email that was sent if they have not already done so.
- Maintenance at Museum: Michael Van Hooker will look to clean the gutters on the rear of the building again. Tonya Cubby indicated that the Township lawn maintenance company blew the leaves from the lawn and they are piled up by the WTC Beam in front of the Museum and need to be removed.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

- Paradise Knoll and Apshawa 3<sup>rd</sup> grade school visits – Scheduled for December 6 (PK) from 9-11:30 (37 students total (20 and 17), and December 7 (Apshawa) from 9-11:30 (46 students total (24 and 22). Tonya Cubby, Kerry O'Brien, Tom Decker and Harry Bedford will be available to receive students. Hans Niederstrasser will be meeting a group of 5 special needs students on December 6 at 11:45 at the Museum.
- The 190<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Booklet is still in need of final editing work. Tonya Cubby has ordered flash drives and will copy the draft document for any member who would like to assist in reviewing and editing.
- The Committee will be decorating the interior and exterior of the Museum for the holidays on Saturday, Dec 2, starting at 10am. In addition, we will be reviewing the materials we have at the Museum for the upcoming holiday programs, including Victorian inspired ornaments and gingerbread cookie decorating.
- Tonya Cubby discussed the December 9 and 16 holiday ornament program to make sure we had staff at the Museum to receive visitors.
- Publicity/Press Release: Kerry O'Brien drafted a press release for the upcoming holiday/December events at the Museum, including pinecone and gingerbread cookie decorating on Dec 9 & 16. Tonya Cubby to provide updates to Kerry so he can provide the information to the papers. Tonya Cubby will provide to Bob Nicholson for TV77 with a photo from prior year event.

- Tom Decker continues to work on a Postville Exhibit, Newfoundland Schools and Bearfort Puddingstone Exhibit.
- Recent donations/inquiries: Request for information – The Committee discussed the request from the future Bloomingdale Museum for display cases. Tom Decker indicated that they do not have approval yet for the actual site (a former field house), but they do have a place to store the cabinets. The Committee discussed and confirmed that we have some metal medical supply cases in the back workroom with glass doors that we do not use and we can donate, as well as an unused tall glass cabinet in the school room exhibit which needs shelves.
- Kerry O’Brien confirmed that he and Councilman Michael Chazukow spoke with Kelly Ruffel of Passaic County concerning the Economic Development Commission map project and the funding they have available. They advised that if we provide her with information of an event or some project we are planning for next year, she can review it for possible funding. The maps will be available from Passaic County upon request.
- Kerry O’Brien indicated that Chris ?, representing the company that was hired to run the ALF event, stopped by the Museum on Saturday and was looking for information on history of the area. He indicated they may be moving ALF to the Wallisch property next year. He also said that if we are seeking to hold a larger event and need help running it, we can utilize their services.
- Kerry O’Brien indicated that Dan Kochajki, Rec Director, purchased two 6 foot tall LED nutcrackers and four 24 inch wreaths to decorate the Museum. Tonya Cubby will reach out to him concerning set up at the Museum.
- Michael Van Hooker met with a mason concerning the dry laid stone foundation work we need completed at the Museum. Kerry O’Brien indicated that we need more work on the foundation than Michael had thought was needed. Tonya Cubby to provide Michael with the scope of project sheet, so that he can provide this to the mason.
- Hans Niederstrasser is launching a new book on Peter Hasenclever, which he has translated from old German into English, with an event on November 18, 2023 at Long Pond from 1-4.
- Hans Niederstrasser indicated that he spoke with North Jersey Highlands Association’s Ed Lenik about doing a presentation on local and regional history at the Museum. Mr. Lenik indicated that we should get in touch with him next year as he is very busy with other commitments right now.
- Bob Pawlo offered to entertain us by performing Christmas carol music for the holiday meeting next month.
- The Committee discussed what members will be bringing to the holiday buffet meeting next month: Michael Van Hooker – salad and possibly bread; Tonya Cubby – lasagna; Hans Niederstrasser – stollen; Kristen Koerner - assorted desserts; Kerry O’Brien – potstickers or other appetizers.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

*The following were reviewed by the Committee:*

- AASLH – Weekly Dispatches and Past Perfect Newsletter
- Ringwood Manor – 2023 Holiday Events: Victorian Christmas, Holiday Concert (Enslows are performing 4 concerts), Fine Arts Sale –Weekends beginning Dec 1 through Dec 17, 10am – 4pm - [info@ringwoodmanor.org](mailto:info@ringwoodmanor.org)

With no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm by unanimous consent. The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, beginning at 6 pm. Historic Preservation Commission has been invited to join the Heritage Committee for the Christmas Buffet at 6 pm and meetings to follow at 7pm.

Approved: February 13, 2024

Submitted by Kristen Koerner, Secretary