

Lower Merion Historical Society

Executive Board Meeting
Lower Merion Academy
Monday, September 24, 2012

Secretary's Minutes

Members present: Sam Adenbaum, Max Buten, Phil Eidelson, Jerry Francis (President), Ted Goldsborough (Substituting Recording Secretary), Leon Levine, Joanne Murray, Anna O'Hora.

Excused absences: Ken Brier, Sarah Francis, Pete Hoskins, Bobbie McElroy, and Maria Wells

Handouts for each attendee: Agenda 9/24/2012; List of 25 lectures and Events from Jan. 1 through Sept. 22, 2012; flier about the 3rd Annual Fall Festival, Cynwyd Trail, Oct. 28, 2012; Cynwyd Station Landscape Plan, Aug. 2012; and the Treasurer's Balance Sheet 8/31/12, Profit and Loss, Jan –Aug 2012, Cynwyd Station Profit and Loss, Jan.-Aug. 2012.

Jerry Francis called the meeting to order at 7: 38 p.m.

The June 19, 2012, Minutes were approved.

Reports: Cynwyd Station

Jerry Francis: It's been five years since the revitalization began.

During these years, Jim Easter died unexpectedly, Ned Stumpo's company took over. Lower Merion Township and Montgomery County helped with funding. Broadlands Financial (Ken Brier) did pro bono oversight, volunteers have worked on the station and trail. The second floor has been rented.

Jerry thanked the Executive Board for its patience over the years.

Recent progress at the station:

- New concrete train platform, steps, and handicap accessible ramp to parking lot. Funding from Penn DOT and SEPTA.
- A close out/lease of the first floor is near. Money will be needed to get a Certificate of Occupancy for the first floor.
- Jerry asked Board member Bruce Reed to help get the project completed.
- Tile flooring, baseboards, framing around doors and windows on the first floor have been installed by Stumpo Construction.
- SEPTA installed asphalt paving on the outside platform between the station building and the new concrete steps to the train platform.
- Stumpo's workers installed wooden floorboards in front of the outside vestibule double doors, replacing broken ones.
- An information display board donated from the Cynwyd Library has been installed in the lobby by Stumpo.
- Steve Selinger and volunteers have been reconditioning wooden benches donated by the Mary Drexel Home. It was suggested the benches be bolted so not stolen or overturned.

Left to do at the station:

- Drywall around basement stairs, required by the Fire Marshall, will be removed due to mold. This is an unanticipated expense.

- Outside french drains will be installed because of water coming from the hillside by the bridge and Conshohocken State Rd.
- Rain benches to capture water from downspouts on the upper trackside should be installed in the spring of 2013.
- Bruce talked to three Lower Merion Township Commissioners: Manos, McGuire, and McElhaney about additional funding.

Lisa Berger Baskin, a local resident, has been engaged as a realtor to help find a tenant for the first floor. Possible uses could be food/bike rentals/bike repairs.

Additional funding for the Manayunk Bridge has been received by the township from grants.

The Historical Society has adopted the Cynwyd Station Park next to the station.

On 9/29, FOCHT volunteers will plant bushes and flowers around the new concrete stairs and ramps.

During October, PennDOT will complete the stairs and ramp project by installing railings.

Report on the Preserve America Grant: signage and website. The signage project has been two and a half years.

- Representatives from the township and the society have met and have approved a Request for Quote (RFQ) for graphics for 16 interpretative signs along the trail.
- Sarah and Jerry Francis have wording for the signs and have attended many meetings. Bids are due Sept. 28. 2012.
- Once the signs are constructed, township staff will install them.

West Laurel Hill Cemetery has agreed to have mile markers installed every quarter of a mile along the trail. The station will be designated as zero.

Sarah Francis has been maintaining the Cynwyd Trail website.

Statement of Financial Position : Sam Adenbaum

Sam discussed five pages of the August 31, 2012, Statement of Financial Position

- Our account has been moved from Merrill Lynch to Beneficial Bank.
- There are very few book sales.
- The Annual Meeting at the Academy and Bala Cynwyd Woman's Club Gala, plus the Cynwyd Station renovation were major financial events this year to date.
- Ned Stumpo is due \$16,000 for work performed at the station.
- In the future, since the township is the primary lessee, what costs will they have with maintaining the station?
- SEPTA paid for the sewer ejector pump.
- What expenses will the Society have? Liability insurance?
- We will have income from the first and second floor rentals.

The Financial reports were approved.

Database Administration/Newsletter: Joanne Murray

- In sending the electronic newsletter using Vertical Response, and membership renewals, there are very few bounces - .01%. The number of “Friends” of the society is 619.
- Joanne has been working with a colleague on improving our website.
- Praise was given to Phil Eidelson for his years of using Pro Cite to enter thousands of items in our vertical files.
- Due to the limited life of CD’s and DVD’s, we are looking into using Carbonite. Joanne is using Word Press to update our website.
- Jerry informed Commissioner George Manos that the Society’s library is classified as a Special Library, part of the Lower Merion Township Library System, that a core business of the Lower Merion Historical Society is being a library.

Library: Max Buten

Max mentioned the Historical Society of Pennsylvania’s site visits in connection with a grant they have to assess many libraries in the region. In their written report, they described 25 collections in our library.

We have 6, 800 photos on our Building Photos website.

Membership: Jerry Francis

28 Life Members

112 Paid Members

83 Not paid members

619 Friends, who don't pay

A total of 842 receive our monthly *Milestones* newsletter.

Program Committee

Jerry has asked Bruce Reed, Sarah Francis and Maria Wells to be on the Program Committee

Old Business

All the old, stone milestones on Lancaster Ave. are back where they belong. Number 9 was reinstalled next to Ludington Library in Bryn Mawr after the multi-year construction at that location. (This stone was originally down Lancaster Ave. going west opposite the movie theater, in that block, but down further toward Merion Ave. It was moved decades ago for safety to the township property at the library.)

There is a proposal in the township to designate historic objects such as milestone, street signs, and Keystone markers, but there's nothing new to report.

A PennDOT grant is changing the sidewalks on Bala Ave.

Due to a change in leadership at Main Line Media, the offer of giving the historical society past issues of the Main Line Times and Main Line Life newspapers has been withdrawn.

New Business

Former Director and Vice President Ross Mitchell has resigned. We shall seek candidates to fill vacancies.

Jerry and Denise Francis will be on vacation at the Jersey shore from 9/30 until 10/6.

Phil Eidelson expressed concern about trying to increase our paying membership.

He wondered if we might offer a course for Main Line School Night.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 22, 2013, in the Lower Merion Academy.

Respectfully submitted:

Ted Goldsborough
Substituting secretary.