

**Lower Merion Historical Society
Executive Board Meeting
Lower Merion Academy
September 24, 2013**

Present: Jerry Francis, Steve Selinger, Joanne Murray, Leon Levine, Max Buten, Ken Brier, Bobbie McElroy

Excused Absence: Pete Hoskins

Invited Guest: Patrick Doyle

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Jerry said that the society's activities usually gets quiet over the summer, but that didn't happen this year. July was a fairly active time and August turned out to be very active. It is now September and we are now back in stride. Jerry announced that he will complete his term as President, but he now believes that this time frame maybe too short and will agree to stay longer, if it is the will of the Board. We are not good at multi tasking and the society needs more volunteers in order to continue its projects.

The Minutes from the June 20th 2013 Board Meeting were voted on and approved.

The Minutes from the July 3rd 2013 Board Meeting meeting were again circulated, voted on and approved.

Over the summer, Jerry and Ken Brier spent many hours discussing strategic planning of the society. We need to fill the vacant position of *Vice President*, and the society's By-laws give the Board the authority to appoint officers (Article V, Section 5), the Board then voted and appointed Ken Brier as *Vice President*.

There is a sense that the Board should have the continuing advice of a *Solicitor* since we now lease 2 properties (the Lower Merion Academy and the Cynwyd Train Station). Jim Ettelson will be approached and asked to serve as our *Solicitor*.

Leon Levine, who has been our *Acting Treasurer*, was nominated to fill the vacant poition of *Treasurer*. The Board then voted and appointed Leon as our *Treasurer*.

Sam Adenbaum had recommended that we speak to Gary Kay at J. Bernard Kay & Company, who has worked with other Lower Merion *not for profit* groups. Jerry and Leon were authorized to work with Gary on an engagement letter that has been initially drafted and priced at an annual fee of \$250 for his services. Also, our By-laws require that checks for over \$250 require 2 signatures which will require both Jerry's and Leon's signature.

According to our By-laws (Article V, Section 3), we require a total of 9 Directors on our Board. Currently, our Board, has a full compliment of 5 Officers and only 3 Directors with 6 open positions for Director. After a discussion, Ken, Pete and Jerry will comprise the Nominating Committee. Pete and Steve will comprise the Property Committee. The Strategic Planning Committee will be on our January agenda.

Treasurer: Leon reported that the funds are about the same as at the last meeting. The Township of Lower Merion has reimbursed the Society for all the final work on the Cynwyd Train Station. Our check book balance is currently around \$40,000.

The Township's review of our *2012 Financial Statement* was given an extension, due to a request by Dean Dortone.

Education: A report was circulated showing that we hosted 14 lectures/events this calendar year.

Database Administration/Newsletter: Joanne discussed our *Vertical Response* host and the work to maintain our membership database and to distribute our monthly eNewsletter.

Website: Our virtual library continues to be very busy; during the past 12 months we have had 179,060 visits. The need to move Max's building website to the Historical Society's website was discussed. Thanks were expressed to Pat Doyle for his consulting services on a variety of IT issues. A successful website will bring more attention to the Historical Society.

Membership: Currently, we have 92 paid members, 96 not yet paid, 28 life members, and 669 friends. Pat volunteered to help work on membership.

Old Business: Jerry stated that the Historical Society has done a good job of revitalizing the *Lower Merion Academy* and the *Cynwyd Train Station*. At the station, installation of a french drain was completed in August and the installation of rainwater ranks will be completed in about 2 weeks. The maintenance and repairs to the station are our commitment. Any monies received for rent must go into a fund for future maintenance.

The Sublease Agreement for the *Cynwyd Station Café and Tea Room* was signed by Steve on July 16th for use of the 594 sq/ft. Jerry Francis wrote a disclaimer of a conflict of interest letter. Jim Ettelson asked the Board to again vote that there would be no conflict of interest for Jerry. A discussion took place about the disclaimer letter from Jerry. It was felt that his letter clarified the matter and that *no conflict of interest* was found. Leon made the motion to accept that decision and the Board voted 6 in agreement, 0 not in agreement and 1 abstention (i.e. Jerry) which approved the motion.

Jim Ettelson has a scheduled conference with Township officials for a discussion of the sublease. Hopefully, the sublease will be approved by the Township at their October 16th Board of Commissioners Board Meeting.

On September 12th at the old Ardmore Avenue School, a dedication ceremony took place where the *Moment of Integration (MOI) Historic Marker* was installed.

The *Preserve America* signs for the *Cynwyd Heritage Trail* should be installed in October.

New Business: The *Bicentennial Signature Quilt* was donated to the Historical Society by Bonnie Atwood and it now hangs on the wall in the General Reference Room at the Academy. The Society authorized \$300 to reimburse Bonnie for her out-of-pocket costs to finish the quilt.

Cynwyd Elementary School's Centennial Celebration in 2014 will be led by Ted Goldsborough.

Judy Swartz donated atlases and photos left to us by her husband Bob.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectively Submitted,
Barbara McElroy
Secretary