

The Lower Merion Historical Society

Executive Board Meeting

January 21, 2010

The Lower Merion Academy

Present:

Treasurer's Report – Jack Hagner

Copies of the 2009 Financial Statement and budget were disseminated and reviewed by the board. Net assets came to \$163,201, with sales tax paid. Jack and Jerry visited Diane Publishing in Collingdale where they took a physical inventory of *The First 300*: 317 total copies remain in inventory. Steve Selinger made the motion to approve the report, Leon Levine seconded the motion.

Cynwyd Train Station Update – Jerry Francis

Subcontractor work has been delayed because of the holidays, inclement weather, and scheduling with other jobs.

A meeting with Township Manager Doug Cleland was arranged with Jerry, Sarah, and Ned Stumpo on Tuesday, January 26th to discuss who will be responsible to utility charges at the station going forward, and to urge the Township to follow up with SEPTA regarding the sewer work they had committed to complete.

A review of the budget will be sent out by Broadlands this week: according to the report, we the project is 83.2% complete.

Ned Stumpo has committed to remaining within the \$190,000 budget to complete the first phase. He has agreed to personally absorb any overages.

Leon Levine inquired about the estimated date of occupancy: while it all depends on SEPTA, we are hoping to get the caretaker moved in the second floor around April of 2010. First floor occupancy may not occur until next year.

Sarah reported her work with Shift Space Design LLC, a design firm that had committed to donating their services in the design of a rainwater harvesting system for the train station. She had met with their architects and had given them a tour – a scope of the proposed work is expected by next week.

Cynwyd Heritage Trail Update – Sarah Francis

We had over 200 volunteers on the Trail over the course of MLK weekend: photos and updates have been posted to the *cynwydheritagetrail.com* site.

The study committee had their last meeting January 8th to discuss the latest design concepts. The next, and last community design meeting is scheduled to occur on Tuesday, January 26th, at 6:30 pm at the West Laurel Hill Conservatory. Major discussion topics include: different potential activities to have on trail; trail width in different sections, and paving materials (gravel, asphalt, pervious); the possibility of running a 1/2 mile section of the trail between Barmouth Station and the Connelly site closer to the creek, thus incorporating the Westminster Cemetery area into the park; designing to avoid conflicts between high speed users (bikers) and low speed users (walkers). The design schemes propose various solutions including constructing two equal sized paths separated by a planted median. The planted median would separate activities and also capture stormwater; looking at 3 potential locations for a dog park. The first location is by the entrance to the Barmouth Parking lot, the second location is between the trail and Bala Cynwyd Park (a long run between the tennis courts and the trail) and the third location is in the Connelly site. Each of the sites has its own advantages and each site will require more evaluation before a final site is selected.

Ongoing discussions on how to promote and integrate the historical aspects of the trail – main component of *Preserve America* signage grant will be with interpretive historical signage. Grant is now on hold while the Township reviews the new grant conditions before it can be awarded. Ross suggested that we incorporate cell phone call-in posts for historical background. Apparently it would roughly be \$700 down at a monthly cost of \$200.