

Lower Merion Historical Society

Annual Meeting

The Academy Building – 506 Bryn Mawr Ave Bala Cynwyd, PA

April 11, 2019

Following a period of socializing, the Annual Meeting was called to order by President Jerry Francis at 7:25 PM.

There was a pledge of allegiance to the flag.

In attendance were:

Jerry Francis, President	Ken Brier, VP	Leon Levine, Treas.
Bobbie McElroy, Corp Secy	Perry Hamilton, Recording Secy	Gary Brock
Christina Fink	Martha Moffat	Joanne Murray
Brad Upp	Max Buten	Ted Goldsborough
Ross Mitchell	Carole Strickland	Rachel Wolgemuth

Invited Guests: Sylvia Myers, Brian McGuire, Nicholas Zarvalas, George Lonsdorf, James Oswald, Doug Holsclaw

Secretary's Report: The report of January 24, 2019 was approved as submitted

President's Report: Jerry Francis, President.

- Jerry welcomed all members of the LM Historical society to our 70th Anniversary meeting.
- Jerry then had all present at the meeting introduce themselves.
- Jerry then gave a brief review of the history of the LM Historical Society.
- Jerry then read and discussed our mission statement.
- It was pointed out that beyond stewardship of primary historical resources, the LM Historical Society serves as a “special library” which is of services to researchers, authors, and all others who have a need to know more about the history of our township. In addition, our society has played a special and valuable role in advising our township government about matters of theirs that are of historical significance.
- Currently we are supporting the authorship of a book on the history of the Pencoyd Iron Works which is being written by Kevin Righter.
- Brad Upp was then called on to give an up date of his research on Camp Discharge. Along with Jim Remsen, Brad has gone to Washington DC to research important historical aspects of Camp Discharge. It has been discovered that Camp Discharge was used extensively in treating and then releasing Union Army veterans who were imprisoned in the prisoner of war camps run by the Confederacy. These former prisoners returned to the North in terrible medical condition and Camp Discharge was used to restore the health of these veterans before they were returned to their civilian life. Brad also pointed out that he has been able to unearth many historically valuable artifacts at Philadelphia Country Club.
- Jerry gave an update of programs that are scheduled for the near future.
 - May 1st: LM Historical Society will host a personal photo scanning event
 - May 4th: Derby Day at Woodford Mansion
 - May 15th: Perry Hamilton will give a presentation at the Bala Cynwyd Library on the Reading RR
 - Sept 21: Autocar Employees Annual Dinner
 - Bobbie McElroy will represent LM Historical Society at Bryn Mawr Day
 - Oct 12th: Ross Mitchell will be leading a celebration of the 375th birthday of William Penn
- Jerry thanked Christine Hughes and Joanne Murray for their help with social media
- Jerry thanked Carole Strickland for her help with township planning issues.
- Jerry reported on the good condition of Cynwyd Station Park with thanks to Donna Heller and Suzanne Francis
- Jerry reported on the preservation of the Cynwyd Station.
- Brian McGuire reported on the continuing effort to bring the Egyptian Theater to be repurposed and restored.

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- There were several motions discussed regarding the LM Historical Society's position on the future of the WCAU Building on City Ave. None of these motions were passed.
- Jerry thanked Leon Levine and Jim Ettlerson for their service to the LM Historical Society

Ross Mitchell: Ross reported on the condition of the Merion Meeting House. Basically, there is an urgent need to repair the roof of the stables and the Joseph Price House on that sight. Ross pointed out that the school house, which was built in the 1950's has had very little change since then. The time has come to pay attention to the condition of that building. Ross also pointed out the large expense of repairing the stone wall which fronts on Montgomery Ave. there is likely to be more work needed to maintain that wall properly.

Treasurer's Report: Leon Levine reported that the LM Historical society is in good financial condition – especially considering that we suffered an unexpected set back in our finances due to the unexpected expense of the LM Horse Company's 200th Anniversary Dinner this past November and the turn-over and repairs in the Caretakers Apartment.

Nominating Committee: Jerry read the slate of Nominees for the next two years:

President	Jerry Francis
Vice President	Ken Brier
Treasurer	Leon Levine
Corresponding Secretary	Barbara McElroy
Recording Secretary	Perrin C Hamilton Jr

Nominated for the Board of Directors for the Class of 2022:

Gary Brock
Max Buten
Rachel Wolgemuth

Having followed the procedures established by our By Laws, all of the above were elected.

There was a general discussion of the state of historical societies across Pennsylvania. It has been noticed that the environment for historical societies is increasingly difficult and we have to be prepared to meet these challenges.

The meeting was adjourned and the board gathered downstairs for our group photo.

Respectfully submitted:

Perrin C Hamilton Jr.
Recording Secretary