

**The Lower Merion Historical Society
Executive Board Meeting
Monday, January 19, 2015
The Lower Merion Academy**

Present: Jerry Francis, Carole Strickland, Louis Barson, John Hepp, Patrick Doyle, Perrin Hamilton, Leon Levine, Ken Brier, Joanne Murray, Martha Moffat, Max Buten, Pete Hoskins, Bobbie McElroy, Ted Goldsborough.

Guest: Jim Oswald

The Meeting was called to order at 7:15pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was observed in memory of Steve Selinger.

The Minutes of the September 22, 2014 Board Meeting were approved, with the change to a capital letter for Jerry's name.

In the next issue of *Milestones* there will be a report about the Township recognizing efforts toward Historic Preservation of Township buildings and property. By 2017 there should be an ordinance for a Lower Merion Preservation Trust. The protected properties should include the William Penn Inn, and the Milestones as historic objects.

Treasurer's Report: Leon Levine stated that his report would be brief. Gary Kay (J. Bernard Kay & Company) who does our accounting, will have our 2014 year end financial statements available at our April business meeting. Leon reported that our account has about \$8,500 more than at the start of 2014, due to the two rental incomes at the Cynwyd Station and from the sale of books. Jerry discussed the remaining books, which will be kept for historical record and stated that there will be no reprint of our book The First 300."

Carole Strickland and Perrin Hamilton agreed to do the financial review of the Society's books. Jerry reminded the Board that we should have the financial review completed by the April business meeting.

Database Administration/Newsletter. The Society has 980 members, 882 on email and 26 to be mailed. The Newsletter is also available on *Facebook* and on our website. Joanne Murray reported that things are working out well.

Education: The Society's main mission is education. There are 7 programs scheduled for the Spring. Last year there were 22 programs presented. Part of the strategic plan is to utilize the *Cynwyd Station Park* for more programs.

Library: Jerry reported that he, Ted Goldsborough, Max Buten and Bob McCormack volunteer a lot of their time staffing our *Special Library*. Our thanks go to all four men! More support help is needed.

Website/Facebook/YouTube: Joanne reported that Richard Cardone, our Webmaster, has retired. Richard will be training Joanne and believes that she is able to handle this responsibility. She would like more help and suggested that as we look for new Board members, we try to find people who do have ability to run the Website. Max reported that South Jersey Techies, are busy working on the *Lower Merion/Narberth Building Photographs* portion of our site.

Membership: Jerry announced that the 2015 membership renewal letter will go out soon. There are currently 248 paid members, but we need many more members in order to replace our book sale income. Question is, how do we revitalize our membership?

Ted Goldsborough reported on his *Living History with Ted Goldsborough* LMTV series. He began the program in 2011, and interviews one person's each month and so far has done 48 different programs.

Program: Jerry announced that he will present his program on the Lenape Indians on July 18th in the Cynwyd Station Park. There are 6 programs lined up so far for 2015. We hope to get one on West Laurel Hill Cemetery. Carole suggested resuming the bus tours, but buses have become an insurance problem.

Property Committee: Martha Moffat is putting together a book on maintenance procedures and contact information for the Cynwyd Train Station.

Public Relations: Ted will be doing an interview with Jerry on his *Living History with Ted Goldsborough* program about the revitalization of the Cynwyd Train Station. The March issue of *Main Line Today* magazine will feature an article on the same subject. Several members of the Board were interviewed for the article.

Strategic Planning: Ken Brier discussed the Committee's meetings and efforts to get things done in the Township. They have applied for the franchise to manage the Public Access TV cable channel, so that we can get our name out, include local neighborhood civics and form a plan to show Lower Merion people doing important things in the Township. The Township Commissioners are working on a plan to adopt a Lower Merion Preservation Trust, for the preservation of important historical properties. The Historical Society could be the primary organizer of the Trust.

The next discussion was on forming a plan for the succession of Jerry's leadership. Pete Hoskins made the motion to purchase a 2 year Key Man Insurance policy on Jerry Francis, in order to provide a bridge to completion of a Strategic Plan, to be purchased one year at a time. Pat Doyle seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously approved.

Ken also discussed his efforts to get more members of the Historical Society living in the western end of the Township.

Old Business: The Historical Commission will collaborate with the Historical Society on the designation of Historic Objects. Milestones will be replanted and historic street signs will be replaced.

Construction of the Manayunk Bridge Revitalization is underway. The opening, with a special train from the city, is set for October 8, 2015.

We are working on having people donate sleeper stones from the Philadelphia and Columbia Railroad, to be installed at the Cynwyd Station Park.

The installation of PECO service is being worked on and will be paid for by Lower Merion Township, so that we will have access to electricity in the Cynwyd Station Park.

A Township meeting will take place on January 26th to announce the plans for the development to save the Joseph Price 1799 William Penn Inn.

Jerry discussed the efforts to rescue the Egyptian Theatre. The Sotolidis Family and Greg Wax are engaged in a lawsuit. Hopefully the legal issues can be resolved and it will then be possible to re-open the Theatre.

New Business:

- * Appointment of Jerry Francis and Leon Levine to the Budget Committee.
- * Appointment of Perrin Hamilton and Carole Strickland to the Financial Review Committee.
- * Appointment of Jerry Francis, Ken Brier and Lou Barson to the Nominating Committee. Up for election in April are the Officers and Directors for the Class of 2018.

The Meeting was adjourned 9:05pm

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara McElroy, Secretary

The next Executive Board Meeting will be our Annual Meeting on
Sunday, April 26th at 11:30am