

**Lower Merion Historical Society
Executive Board Meeting
Monday, September 22, 2014
The Lower Merion Academy**

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

Invited Guest: Matt Gabalawi

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

The Minutes of the June 26, 2014 Board meeting were approved as written.

Jerry began the meeting with the announcement that we have a packed agenda.

2013 Financial Review: Max Buten presented the *Financial Review Committee Report for 2013* and asked for attention to the 2nd, 3rd and final paragraphs of the report. Max and Pat Doyle felt that the financial activity of the Board, by several changes in authority, resulted in the spreading and the weakening of authority. The two programs, run by the Historical Society, were the *Moment of Integration (MOI)* in the Lower Merion Public Schools and the *Kickstarter* campaign to finance the building of rainwater harvesting benches at the Cynwyd Train Station. They suggested that future external campaigns be segregated in our accounting system. They reported that they found no activities by the Treasurer or anyone else, were in conflict with the Historical Society values. It was moved, seconded and unanimously voted to approve the Report.

Treasurer's Report: Leon Levine reported that the bank balance, as of August 31, 2014 was \$48,715.97. This balance will increase because we are now collecting monthly rentals at the Cynwyd Train Station from the first floor Café and from the second floor Caretaker Apartment. Currently, we do not have an escrow fund for the Cynwyd Train Station expenses because the Township is responsible for maintenance. We must report to the *Pennsylvania Bureau of Charitable Organizations* documenting that we are a registered charitable organization. We still have 70 to 80 copies of the book The First 300... which are inventoried at Diane Publishing Co. It was moved, seconded and unanimously voted to approve the August 31, 2014 Treasurer's Report.

Database Administration/Newsletter: Jerry announced that we have 888 members, 861 are emailed and 27 are sent hard copies. The Society's efforts to save the *William Penn Inn* is getting great publicity.

Education: A list of the 18 lectures and events that have already taken place was distributed. There are also 5 events to take place this fall.

Library: There continues to be many visitors to our website. Max Buten and Ted Goldsborough, along with Bob McCormick, staff our Library every Wednesday evening and Saturday afternoon. Their mission is to provide full library support service to the community.

Website: During the previous 12 months, we have had 184,373 visits to our website. Joanne has been working with Richard Cardona (U of P volunteer) reloading our search engine in order to get better search results. Max and Matt Gabalawi are loading about 100 pictures a week onto our website, but have about 6,000 pictures yet to be processed. Pat Doyle has received a quote of \$2,000 from Amit Shah of *South Jersey Techies, LLC* to convert our *Lower Merion/Narberth Building Photographs* database into a more user friendly format. They expect to start programming in the next 3 weeks and it will take about 4 to 6 weeks to complete the project. A motion was made to spend up to \$2,500 to have *South Jersey Techies, LLC* complete the move of our old website to our new website. The motion was unanimously approved.

Membership: Pat Doyle is the new Chairman of the Membership Committee. He will work on redesigning the Membership program.

Programs: Jerry has 2 programs scheduled for this fall. On October 29th, in the Cynwyd Station Park, there will be the lecture *Haunted History: The True Ghosts of Lower Merion*. Also, Ted Goldsborough hopes to do a *History Trolley* tour of Lower Merion, but we have not yet been able to secure a bus for the trip.

Property Committee: Martha Moffet is working with Jerry to provide a maintenance manual for the Cynwyd Train Station. It is complicated because of all the agencies involved.

Public Relations: The Historical Society is working with the Lower Merion Conservancy to develop collaborative programs. The Friends of the Cynwyd Heritage Trail is not very active right now. The Society is also working with several other groups who have sought our help.

Strategic Plan: Ken Brier is chairman of this committee, also on the committee are Carole Strickland, John Hepp, Joanne Murray, and Jerry Francis. The committee has been investigating *Key Man Insurance*. They have gotten from Charlotte Stellwagen of Stellwagen Financial Services in Bryn Mawr a quote of \$1366/year for \$100,000 of coverage. The Board asked the committee to pursue this course of action and report back in January with their recommendation.

Old Business:

Historical Commission Collaboration: There is a proposed Township ordinance under consideration to designate historic objects, such as the Milestones, Keystone Markers and Street Signs. This may be delayed and rolled into the new Township Comprehensive Plan.

Re-Installation of Lancaster Avenue Milestone #5: The # 5 milestone, hit by a car, is still waiting to be reinstalled. We hope the work will be done this fall.

Installation of the Philadelphia & Columbia Railroad Sleeper Stones: This project involves the history of the Sleeper Stones. They each weigh at least 400 pounds, so are difficult to relocate. The stones are located in various places, from the Belmont Plateau to Ardmore. We hope to have the installation completed by the Spring of 2015.

Pending Demolition of Joseph Price's 1799 William Penn Inn: The William Penn Inn project is on hold. We are working with the *Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission* to put the house on the *National Register of Historic Places*. Lots of work is going on behind the scenes.

Lower Merion Township's Land Use Committee is doing a study of how to preserve historic properties thru philanthropic and private resources.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

The next meeting of the Board is January 19th, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara McElroy
Secretary