



MINUTES
BOROUGH OF EMERSON
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
COMMITTEE

May 15, 2017
7:00 P.M.

Borough Hall-Council Chambers
Emerson, NJ 07630



-
- I. Jill McGuire called the meeting to order at 6:58 p.m. and identified the emergency exits and requested all cell phones ringtones be turned off.
- II. Roll Call
- Jill McGuire called the Roll of the Historic Preservation Committee.
- Present:** Jill McGuire, Phil Mazzo, Tony Basile, Marie Castrovillari, Ann McElwain and Frances Varoli
- Absent:** Vincent Benanti
- III. EXCUSED ABSENCE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE MEMBER
- Vote to excuse absence of Vincent Benanti.
- ▣ **Motion** to excuse the absence of Vince Benanti from the Regular Meeting of April 17, 2017 was **moved** by Frances Varoli, **seconded** by Ann McElwain and carried unanimously.
- IV. PROCLAMATIONS & CITATIONS
- Jill McGuire announced that there were no proclamations or citations.
- V. APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS
- Appointment for Committee Secretary, Emerson resident Linda Flynn, has offered to serve as secretary.
- ▣ **Motion** to appoint Linda Flynn as Committee Secretary was moved by Ann McElwain, **seconded** by Phil Mazzo and carried unanimously
- VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
- Regular Session Meeting Minutes of Monday, April 17, 2017
- ▣ **Motion** to approve the Meeting Minutes of Monday, April 17, 2017 was **moved** by, Frances Varoli, **seconded** by Tony Basile and carried unanimously.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Frances Varoli was provided with her corrected, signed Official Oath of Public Officers Borough of Emerson Certificate.
- As a reminder the 2017 Meeting Dates were approved at the last meeting. They have been posted and the Newspapers have been notified.
- A Special Meeting to further discuss the Summer Recreation Kick Off was approved for Monday June 5, 2017.

Jill McGuire shared her visit with Paul Stefanowicz, a Council Member, historian and author who wrote a book about Tenafly, New Jersey. Mr. Stefanowicz will be coming to the June 5th meeting to speak about his experience with publishing and as a historian.

- Review of 2017 Committee Goals.

Frances Varoli spoke about the importance of the Vanity Book. It can't be done by the summer, but if it's reasonably priced people will buy it.

Ann McElwain expressed interest in future preservation efforts with regard to getting a historic element in our master plan.

Phil Mazzo has been very active in looking into Emerson historic archives. Efforts will be made to move the archives currently being stored at the Library and Senior Citizen Center to one central location making it accessible to Committee members. Once the archives have been moved, Committee member will need to determine the timing of the contents (pictures and other memorabilia) and then digitally archive.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- Members of the Committee were given a copy of the Emerson Employee Handbook and Social Media Policy and Release form to review, sign and return it at the June 5th meeting.
- Discussion of Emerson Library display case.

The Committee viewed photos received from town residents to use in the Emerson Library Display Case. The plan is to use a selection of summer and spring photos showing Emerson residents doing various activities.

- The Recreation Summer Kickoff takes place on Saturday, June 17th. The Historic Preservation Committee will provide a Photo Gallery. Jill McGuire suggested the theme name be "Call Back The Years" which is the title of one of the Mural Paintings in the Emerson Borough Hall. In addition it's also the Centennial of the US Entry into WWI, so In keeping with these themes we could use photos from the early 1900's.

Jill McGuire and Phil Mazzo will request permission (via letter) to view the Emerson archives at the Senior Center and Library and see if some of the photos and memorabilia can be used for the event.

Phil Mazzo described his idea for the display fixture for the photos. He's building a table with sides and wheels. A Rolling Pop Up Display. It can be used for the Summer Kick Off and future events.

Ann McElwain suggested we use the special outdoor tables from the Senior Center.

Jill McGuire showed examples of the Cutout Displays (approx..5 feet tall) for the Summer Kick Off. The Cutouts are fun and will draw the younger residents in for pictures. The suggested photos to use for the cut outs are the picture of Marie Castrovillari's father in his army uniform and the picture of a young Emerson girl taken in the early 1900's.

The Committee will have a table which can be used for a donation box, photo albums and for interviewing Emerson residents. There will be a seating schedule for Committee members to answer questions, interview residents and get to know the Community.

Frances Varoli spoke about interviewing Emerson's old time residents. They are a wealth of information. Jill McGuire agreed. We should definitely put together questionnaires for the Summer Kick Off and we can call it "Share Your Emerson History"

IX. REPORTS

- Jill McGuire and Marie Castrovillari went to speak with the students at Emerson High School in April. The High School was commemorating the Centennial of WWI. Jill showed the students photos and Draft Cards from the time. The students seemed to be very interested in the information on the Draft Cards. One student noted that the Draft Card he was looking at belonged to someone who lived on his street.
- Jill McGuire and Phil Mazzo are working on surveying the archives at the Library.
- Jill McGuire received confirmation this past Friday that Sussex Bank has donated \$500. To help with the Summer Kick Off. The money will be used for printing pictures and help construct the displays.
- Continuing to update the website keeping it interesting, working on an interview with former noteworthy Emerson resident and author Frank Varney.
- Continue to update Facebook page with photos and resident history.

X.PUBLIC COMMENT

■ **Motion** to open the meeting to comments from the public was **moved** by Tony Basile, **seconded** by Marie Castrovillari and carried.

Owen Cassidy, 124 Congress Rd., said he has been a resident of Emerson since 1967. I was an elected council man from 72 to 74 and again from 75 to 78. A total of 23 years in elected office. I ran 7 times, won 7 times. Commented on history of Emerson. Thinks the committee is doing a great job.

Ed Bueti, 91 Chestnut Street, suggests we should remember going forward to start keeping track of Emerson's future history. Use You Tube to share videos of Emerson residents being interviewed. You tube is very accessible. Inquire with the Emerson High School to see if they have an Audio Visual Group who can assist with photography and videos.

In addition you should confirm if you actually need to sign the Social Media Policy. Jill McGuire said she will follow up with the Borough Administrator.

Jill McGuire responded to Ed Bueti's comments. We are so new. Our focus is the Summer Kick off. It's a great introduction for us. We also need to get involved with residents who are interested in restoring their homes. We don't have a historic element now but we may have residents reaching out to us in the future. I will speak to Committee member, Vincent Benanti who is the expert in this field.

■ **Motion** to close the meeting to public comment was **moved** by Frances Varoli, **seconded** by Marie Castrovillari and carried.

XI.RESOLUTION

NA

XII.ADJOURNMENT

■ **Motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m. was **moved** by Ann McElwain, **seconded** by Frances Varoli and carried.