

Historic Sites Committee of Warren, NJ

March 11, 2021

Members attending: Rory Britt, Susie Boyce, Kari Quirós, Greg Fitzgerald, Michael François, Rich Disano, Debra Rebetje, Erica Sbarra, Alan Siegel, Karl Horster, Christy Cwynar, John George

Excused: Nancy Micou, John Lindner

Minutes were read and corrected.

New Business

1. Baptist Meeting House Cemetery
 - a. The Committee was approved to take ownership of the Cemetery.
 - b. The Cemetery will need to be surveyed and subdivided. (The Town should pay for the survey.)
 - c. It should not be merged with the Meeting House because it may be then be considered a historical site (however, if this is the case, it may be able eligible for grants). Margaret Westfield may have thoughts about this.
2. Township archive space
 - a. The Committee has 6 filing cabinets which will be put into the water and fire proof vault.
 - b. The Committee will schedule a work day to go through the documents (will need boxes, folders).
 - i. Greg Fitzgerald will scheduled a date for next week (Tuesday, 3/16 at 7:30pm?).
 - ii. Erica Sbarra to make an Amazon order of materials needed for archival group work.
3. Hoffheimer House
 - a. The Town said that they need to discuss the Committee's request to save the building.
 - b. The Committee should get together to make a list of reasons about why the building should be saved.
 - i. Address the Township Committee and then newspaper/Warren Patch/TAP (include many reasons, be persuasive).
 - ii. The Committee will need the historical videos and photos for archival purposes in case the building is demolished.
 - c. Utilize the entire first floor.
 - i. Ask the Senior Citizens to partner with us right now to get things going (they want space for meetings, storage, and possibly kitchen space).
 - d. John George said that he film all the beautiful parts of the house.

- e. The Library may be able to use space for exhibits (counter the bad PR with good PR) by displaying Hoffheimer books, video, etc.
 - f. Environmental Study document from 2020 will be requested.
4. Tour of Warren
- a. Video tour with photos and/or video (include geology) of Warren - Alan can do the tour.
 - i. Include: Dead River, glacial lake, the red schoolhouse, Trap Rock, oil pipeline, Dock Watch Hollow, Watchung Mountains, Union Village, Tucker Cemetery, Mt. Horeb, Coddington houses (all three), Kirch Ford House, Mt. Bethel Baptist Meeting House, Grange Hall, Our Lady of the Mount chapel, the Elks Grotto, mausoleum, 9/11 Monument, Hoffheimer House, Springdale Methodist Church, Old Church Road Cemetery, the Old Smalleytown Road house
 - ii. Put together a list of (elderly) people who might still have memories of the sites visited.
5. Coddington
- a. John Lindner was trying to talk to a contractor to figure out a less expensive way to “mothball” the house.
 - b. The floor joist is rotting but the foundation, itself, is solid.
 - c. Documents and photos in the archive area (early 19th-20th centuries) need to be removed.
6. 50th Anniversary of the Warren Historical Society
- a. Something to celebrate the anniversary should be scheduled before October.

Meeting adjourned at 9:26pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kari Quiros, Rec. Sec.