

## **Minutes for December 7, 2015 NJLA History & Preservation Section Meeting held at Morristown National Historic Park, Morristown, NJ.**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:03 PM. In attendance were Section officers Deb Schiff, Carolyn Dorsey, Ken Kaufman, and Tim Corlis. Also in attendance were Tom Ankner, Bruce Bardarik, Bob Egan, Sue Eisdorfer, Danny Klein, Carol Levin, Nancy Madacsi, Pam Robinson, and Sara Weissman.

Introductions were made.

### **Minutes**

Minutes from September 30, 2015 were reviewed. Tom motioned and Tim seconded that the minutes be accepted. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Committee Reports**

Deb announced a January 4, 2016 deadline for the next issue of "The Chronicle".

Carolyn distributed a list of program proposals for the 2016 conference. They were submitted to the Conference Committee for approval. We should know which programs were approved by late December.

Deb reiterated that the Awards Committee is seeking nominations. Please submit them to Jessica.

Ken read the latest change proposal to the bylaws (see Old Business Section for details).

Deb appointed the Nominating Committee, which has started assembling a slate of candidates. She will notify the membership when the slate is complete.

Danny outlined his new duties as Web Presence Coordinator. He will be updating the H&P part of NJLA Central, as well as our Facebook page. He needs content to add, so please send information on exhibits and programs. Photos will be greatly appreciated. You can e-mail them to [dklein@jclibrary.org](mailto:dklein@jclibrary.org).

Deb relayed that Gary is seeking materials from past presidents for the H&P Archives, which will be housed at Monmouth County Archives.

### **Old Business**

A discussion and vote was conducted on approving a bylaw change for the addition of a section Archive Committee. Ken read the revised text. Tim recommended we name it the "History & Preservation Section Archives Committee" to clarify its scope and avoid confusion with the NJLA wide effort. Danny motioned and Ken seconded that the changes, along with the name suggestion, be approved. The members present unanimously voted for approval.

Deb updated us on the NJLA Archives and 125th Anniversary efforts. With the archives, the Executive Board group has been working on the records at the NJLA Trenton office, and will determine a plan going forward. Cindy Czesak is leading that initiative. Plans are in the works with Eileen Palmer's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary group for a suitable event in the Fall of 2016.

### **New Business**

Deb prepared a write-up outlining the work and purpose of the Section to a general audience. With the new Archives & Special Collections Committee now under the NJLA-CUS umbrella, the write-up will clarify our role within NJLA and help introduce us to them. Deb plans to place it at our website once the membership has had a chance to review it.

### **Announcements**

Bob will be going on sabbatical to research the history of the Pearl Harbor attack.

Susan reported a busy year at Somerset County Historical Society. At their home, the Van Veghten House, they rehabilitated the area damaged by a water accident and developed museum space. They also received a donation of PastPerfect software. Pam added that the Society has applied for a CAPES survey.

Tom provided details on the opening reception for the year long exhibit, "Newark 350: Settlement, Growth, Renewal" at Newark Public Library. On January 19<sup>th</sup>, the event will feature a panel of well known Newark residents, moderated by Guy Sterling of The Star-Ledger.

Danny shared that the New Jersey Room at Jersey City Free Public Library remains closed with renovations ongoing. In the meantime, the staff is operating out of the Five Corners Branch. He also forwarded news on the next meeting of the Hudson County Genealogical & Historical Society on December 12<sup>th</sup>, of which the speakers will include a retired Surrogate Judge, the County Clerk, and the Registrar of Deeds from the county.

Nancy announced the final open house of the season for the Van Kirk House in Sparta on December 13th. It is also the last chance to see the Samuel F. Pryor Collection of Mechanical and Still Banks from the Bruce Museum. Coming in April 2016 will be an exhibition on vintage costume jewelry.

Tim reported on the exhibit, "Rutgers through the Centuries: 250 Years of Treasures from the Archives". On display are historical documents, photographic illustrations, and artifacts from the University Archives collection. Having opened on November 12<sup>th</sup>, this is part of a yearlong celebration, and is located in Gallery '50 and the Special Collections and University Archives Gallery at Alexander Library.

Carol promoted her story sharing presentations on Emily Roebling and early women aviators.

Sara informed on her work with Acorn Hall Historical House Museum in Morristown. She is working with research on the silver collection.

Carolyn updated on exhibits, programs, and new collections at The Morristown & Morris Township Library. The history of Morristown exhibit is open until the end of December. Programs include a virtual tour of Morristown by Arthur Mierisch on December 9 and a presentation by author, Jude Pfister, on his Acorn Hall book on December 13th. New collections include an inventory of landscape architecture plans for area estates, as well as the business and personal effects of a Morristown wheelwright.

Deb mentioned a postcard collection that was recently donated to Chester Library. She also reported the success of the photo identification workshop organized by the Section and conducted by The Better Image, a conservation company in Milford, on December 1.

Deb passed on the happenings at Plainfield Library from Sarah Hull. The Local History Department received the New Jersey Historical Commission's Award in recognition of their contributions to New Jersey history. The library received a grant from The Plainfield Cultural and Heritage Commission for their conservation efforts of the police log collection.

Ken reported that the New Jersey collection was moved to a more accessible location at the Bridgewater Library during the year.

### **Adjournment**

Without objections, the meeting was adjourned 11:33 AM.

### **Tour of Morristown National Historic Park facility**

The meeting was followed by a tour of Morristown National Historic Park Museum & Library, led by Jude Pfister and Sarah Minegar. Among the tour highlights was a display of several manuscripts authored or signed by various founding fathers.

Thanks to Jude and Sarah for generously hosting us!

Submitted by Ken Kaufman, 1 Feb 2016.