

Asbury Park Historical Society - Monthly Board Meeting
Headquarters - Stephen Crane House, 508 4th Ave., Asbury Park
Third Thursday, August 17, 2023
MINUTES

Trustees Present: Kay Harris, Pres.; Jim Henry V.P.; Susan Rosenberg, Sect.; Eileen Chapman, Teddy Chomko; Dolly Sternesky; Don Stine (filling Mary Damato's vacated position) There remains one open position. Recommendations are sought for filling Tom Chesek's seat.

Trustees Absent: Andy Skokos, Treas.; Susan Skokos; Jen Stine

Trustees: As per a unanimous vote at the July meeting, Don Stine has returned to the Board.

Kay called the meeting to order at 6:50 P.M.

Minutes: June and July Minutes were approved with one negative vote

Finances: Andy Skokos, Treasurer

A.P.H.S. Checking:	\$12,079.42
Money Market:	50,253.46
S.C.H. Checking:	1,099.06
Gaming:	550.00
Grand Total:	\$ 63,981.94

Membership: Susan Skokos

1 new member: total **112** paid members

Jim suggested that Board members bring interested people to the meetings who could be part of the A.P.H.S. Kay furthered the idea by suggesting that interested members attend the committee meetings instead of the business ones. Eileen suggested that there be co-chairs to get people engaged.

Fundraising Events: Teddy Chomko, Eileen Chapman, Dolly Sternesky

Art on the Boardwalk, 19th annual; Aug. 20th

Between the *Coaster*, word of mouth and fine art/crafts fairs, 45 artists and crafters are scheduled to participate.

Awards Dinner: planning meetings are underway; seeking a venue

City Lights Tour, N.Y.C., annual- planning in progress

There is a possibility of the need for two buses

Fundraising Merchandise: Andy Skokos

Keepsake bronze **ornaments:** Stone Pony, Carousel House, Convention Hall Fun House has sold 50; 30, have been sold online.

Teddy recommended using **Venmo**, and the Board agreed.

Susan R. suggested that **merchandise be set up and sold** out of the storage room off the parlor because touring guests have asked to buy things when in the room, on tour, looking at the 19th century clapboard/shingle house style. Guests asked to purchase books and ornaments. Jim suggested that the room be a "Civil War Room." Don then countered that the room could accommodate both.

Merchandise sold in-house: (8/6) 2 round ornaments, 1 book (*Red Badge*) = \$40
(8/13) 1 book (*Local Legends*) = \$20
Donations: \$8.00

Oral History Program: Eileen Chapman

Jim gave Eileen a typed list of oral history candidates.

Stephen Crane House: Jim Henry

Jim is waiting to receive funds from a previously secured grant.

Susan R. suggested that extraneous materials be removed from the property and that two garbage bins with lids be purchased.

Cats: The (6) feral cats that frequent the property will no longer be fed.

Tours: Susan Rosenberg

On Fri., July 21: **2** persons

On Sun., July. 23: **1** person (purchased 1 book, 2 ornaments = \$40.00)

On Sun., Aug. 18: 2 tours, total: **4** people (purchased \$20 book; \$8 donation)

Docent Program: Susan Rosenberg

Tours are available for drop-ins every Sunday from 12 - 2.

(As Jim pointed out, there is a minimum number of days required for the S.C.H. to be open in compliance with non-profit legal requirements.)

In 2014, Susan joined David Sobotka and Tom Chesek in applying to the State Historic Preservation Office to get the S.C.H. on the N.J. Register of Historic Places. National recognition followed. This involved much research. Susan also worked with Frank D'Alessandro and Tom Chesek for multiple years in giving tours during the annual Weekend in Old Monmouth, sponsored by the Monmouth County Historical Commission. The S.C.H. is now one of 50 recognized historical sites in the county.

Susan has served as a trained docent with the Township of Ocean Historical Museum. Using her experience, Susan will create a syllabus of readings, books, films and videos to share with those interested in serving as a

docent. Subjects include A.P. history, the 1878 S.C.H. features and significance, the Crane family, Stephen Crane and Mary Helen Peck Crane. She will reach out to members of the A.P.H.S., Board members, and the community. Susan R. will use Susan S.'s membership spreadsheet . Susan Skokos, Don Stine, Dolly Sternesky and Jim Henry have expressed interest in becoming a docent.

Outreach: Susan Rosenberg

Susan will send out a schedule, asking for volunteers.

Dolly, Kay, Susan, Andy, Don, along with Susan R. will participate.

Asburyfest 2023, Bradley Park

A.P.H.S. will be one of 75 exhibitors/craftsmen/vendors.

Fri.,9/22 - 5:00 -10:00 P.M.

Sat.,9/23 - 11 A.M.-10:00 P.M.

Sun., 9/24 -11 A.M.-6:00 P.M.

Archives and History Day, Sat., Oct. 28, Brookdale Community College's Collins Arena

Details to follow.

Newsletter: Susan Rosenberg

Susan has a working outline and input from various Board members.

She will plunge into completion at the end of August.

Programs: Susan Rosenberg

Various topics were being considered. The archaeological dig was favored for, possibly, November. Susan is awaiting the speaker's response.

Other considerations include the old railroads serving the Jersey Shore, the electric trolley system of Asbury Park and A.P.'s water issues, old and new. Jim suggested that the archaeological dig be featured in Nov., 2nd Thur.

Archives: Don Stine, Kay Harris

Someone donated a packet of 1930's Asbury Park newspapers. They were placed in the freezer for safe-keeping.

Jim received items donated by the great-great granddaughter of Dr. Hugh S. Kinmouth, one of the first physicians in A.P., 1872, and one of the early city councilmen; including a book from a burial service.

An old trunk was discovered in the Santander Bank (going out of business) basement, dating back to the 1930's. Don and Kay retrieved it and discovered vintage resort summer wear and a letter describing a young woman's life in

Asbury Park.
Don suggests that A.P.H.S. secure a section in the basement of the
A.P. Public Library to safeguard the archival materials.

Public Inquiries

Emails were captured, i.e., several were regarding Art on the Boardwalk; these were forwarded to Teddy; one offered a donation of 1930's newspapers and a booklet.

Note: The existing A.P.H.S. phone number is failing to receive messages.

Special Programs

Morro Castle's 90th anniversary 2024

Jim spoke with Deborah Whitcraft, president of the Maritime Museum and got her agreement to help the A.P.H.S., working along with the A.P. Museum, with a special commemoration in 2024.

Note:

Every year, Don Stine has arranged for a wreath to be placed alongside the Morro Castle monument, established by the A.P.H.S., on the south side of Convention Hall.

Annual Re-Org Meeting, January 2024

Speaker suggestions and ideas would be appreciated for discussion at the September meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

