

THPT Minutes for August 5, 2013 Meeting

Submitted by Linda Beyus

Held at Ed and Kathi Cook's Home, 311 Migeon Avenue

President Ed Cook called the meeting to order at 7 pm. Board members in attendance: Ed Cook, Linda Beyus, Bruno Bagnaschi, Marc Trivella, Travis Lapinski, John Manson, Bobbi Boe, Mike Boe and Tom Ethier. Clarice Pietrefase, member of the Marketing Committee, was also present and Attorney Michael Magistrali was present for part of the meeting.

Acceptance of minutes

Marc Trivella made a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting (held 6/24/13); Bobbi Boe seconded the motion, which was approved.

Lease Discussion

Mike Magistrali summarized the status of the lease with the City of Torrington for the corner area of the municipal parking lot next to the library. Ed Cook and Mark McEachern have been working with Mike on the lease process. Mike reported that the exact location of the diner on the site plan is the most difficult part to clarify at this point (which affects traffic, parking space concerns, etc.). Mike suggested that Mike Boe draw another site plan without details of the diner building(s) to simplify total space being leased and work with necessary city officials.

Treasurer's Report

Ed Cook gave the treasurer's report in Mark McEachern's absence.

New starting balance: \$3,431.91 with new total income of \$3,000.13 (a gift from Dave and Esther Bennett). Total expenses were \$313.00 (after expenses for Travis St. rent, City Clerk, and USPS PO box payments). Ending balance was \$ 6,119.04

Donations of \$98 were reported by Ed Cannata and Travis from the Downtown Market Place booth and Travis reported \$295 in the scrap metal funds.

Ed Cannata plans to help Mark McEachern work with the Paypal account donations (from Skee's website and THPT website); these need to be tracked separately.

Donations

Ed Cook is sending thank you notes for all donations that come in, once he is given the info of who donated.

Website Subcommittee report

Linda Beyus, chair, reported that website had some further changes (recommended by the board in June) done by Stephen Michna, of Berkshire Planning Group.

Facebook update

Travis and Bobbi reported some updates to both the Skee's and THPT Facebook pages with solid activity and interest.

Marketing Subcommittee report

Ed Cannata, chair, reported that the Market Place booth is going well each week with lots of people stopping by to talk, sign up for our email list, or take flyers for the Brown event. New signage is on the booth. He discussed an idea for a small, brief art exhibit of diner artwork by John Bader, who has done renderings of Skee's and the North End Diner at no charge. Some discussion of the possibility of using Five Points Gallery followed and will be researched by Ed with the gallery. A possible reception for paying guests might be held at the same time to raise funds. A talk on diners to be held in the future, possibly by Richard Guttman, was brought up again. Several people talked about how to promote the Brown event. Suggestions were through the Facebook pages (or events) two weeks ahead; radio promotion was another idea (for free and possibly buying a spot to air).

Skee's Diner report

Ed Cook reported the land record was recorded with the city. The Bill of Sale and Preservation Restriction are finalized. The work project group is starting to decide priorities for early fall work.

Historic Properties Commission

The Commission was approved by the City Council and letters were sent to members of the Commission. Torrington is officially a Certified Local Government, useful for future grant applications, etc.

Old business

Insurance update: John Manson reported that Central Insurance Co. will not do less coverage than \$250,000. Annual premium would be \$2,200 property and \$780 liability. No decision was made. Ed Cannata offered to approach some diner experts to ask their ideas for less costly insurance coverage. Linda motioned that we purchase the \$780 liability insurance through Burns, Brooks and McNeill now; Ed Cannata seconded; vote approved.

Torrington Library Mural at the Post Office

No update on the status of this. Mark McEachern was going to look into grants to restore this per the last meeting.

Open floor

- Demolition notices were discussed. Some members will be meeting with the property management co. of the Albert St. house's garage to encourage saving the structure.
- The Highland Ave. Abate home may be donated to the city and owner would have lifetime tenancy. Several board members suggested that Ed Cook and Mark McEachern meet and discuss with Planning and Zoning (Marty Connor and Kim Barbieri) future plans for the property.

- Linda suggested that one or two board members soon take on managing the email contacts, names and addresses we are gathering (from the Skee's website page, the flyer card tear-offs at the booth, or donations). They will need to manage our Constant Contact account and work with Ed Cannata to get oriented on how to use and manage regularly.

Next meeting was set for Monday, Aug. 26 at 6 pm at the Torrington Historical Society Carriage House. The marketing meeting will be incorporated into the overall meeting rather than held separately.

Marc Trivella motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8 pm and Bruno Bagnaschi seconded.