

The Lower Merion Historical Society
Executive Board Meeting
Thursday, January 14, 2016
The Lower Merion Academy

Present: Jerry Francis, Max Buten, Ted Goldsborough, Carole Strickland, Christina Fink, Perry Hamilton, Pete Hoskins, Ken Brier, Joanne Murray, Martha Moffat, Louis Barson, Bobbie McElroy

Excused Absence: Leon Levine, Pat Doyle

Guest: Brian McGuire

Jerry Francis called the meeting to order at 7:24 PM, following a *Meet & Great* session with Christina Fink. *The Pledge Of Allegiance* followed. The Minutes of the Executive Board meeting, on September 10, 2015, were unanimously approved. Thanks to Carole Strickland for doing the Minutes.

Jerry gave a short introduction of Christina Fink, our proposed new Board Director, who has been nominated to fill the vacancy of John Hepp (Class of 2017). Christina then gave us a brief biography and told us of her hopes to assist the Historical Society to educate the citizens of Lower Merion of their Township History. After being escorted from the meeting by Perry, the Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Ken Brier, led a discussion of Christina's assets and the reasons why she has been asked to join the Board. Joanne nominated Christina, which was seconded by Lou Barson. The nomination was unanimously approved. Christina was welcomed to the Board.

Jerry then announced the retirement of Cheryl Allison from the *Main Line Times*, with great regret. Cheryl was a great trooper. We will all miss her. A Retirement/Good Luck card was passed around for everyone to sign.

President's Report: Jerry asked that everyone refer to the handout *2016 Special Projects List*. He assured us that we will continue to do what we have been doing in the past, and also assist the Township in adopting an ordinance to protect historic objects, such as the milestones, keystone markers and historic street signs. Commissioner McGuire announced township plans to hire a new Historic Preservation consultant. There are plans to have a new Historic District in Ardmore. Historic Preservation is now a Township priority. Jerry reported that we are working with the *Friends of the Cynwyd Heritage Trail* (FOCHT) to enhance the site at the Switchback Bridge. The Gates at the backside of West Laurel Hill Cemetery will be opened in the Spring/Summer. There are discussions on how our Society may work with/collaborate with *The Lower Merion Society for the Detection and Prosecution of Horse Thieves and Recovery of Stolen Horses* to insure their existence. The Society is also committed to support the NCBC'S 100th Anniversary of their 4th of July Independence Day Celebration. Also, our website needs updating and we are actively seeking a webmaster to work with Joanne Murray.

Treasurer's Report: Leon is working on the 2015 Treasurer's Report with Gary Kay. Perry moved and Carole seconded acknowledgement of receipt of the Report.

Education: Jerry presented a list of 24 educational programs from January 1st thru December 31, 2015. The Lower Merion Synagogue has asked to have a Historical Society program.

Website/Facebook/YouTube: Joanne reported that 923 monthly newsletters were sent out by email. She also discussed virtual education, website and YouTube as media used by younger people. Our website launched on November 18, 2001 and to date there has been more than 2.2 million visits logged.

Perry has written the script for a video, about 20 minutes long, called the *Railroad Along The Schuylkill River in Lower Merion*. Doug Young and other staff members from the LMSD, will help produce the video along with student help from the Bala Cynwyd Middle School. Jerry and Perry want to use this video to promote the Historical Society.

Membership: Lou will talk to Pat Doyle about the Membership Committee. Membership renewal letters were mailed out January 9, 2016. Hope is to get a good response and some new members.

Property Committee (Academy and Cynwyd Station): Martha expressed gratitude to the School District for their good care of the Academy Building. The Township has agreed to take care of some graffiti on the track side at the Cynwyd Station.

Old Business: Ken discussed the very involved problems with the Egyptian Theater and the BMW dealership on Bala Avenue. Nothing has been resolved yet. Everyone is waiting to see what will happen next concerning litigation proceedings.

New Business: Carole reported that the electrical upgrade of the railroad lines from Bryn Mawr to Overbrook will be Phase 2. Attempts to save the freight shed behind Trader Joe's in Ardmore are ongoing in light of the planned Suburban Square expansion.

Leon and Jerry will be the Budget Committee.

Perry and Christina will be the Financial Review Committee.

Jerry and Lou will be the Nominating Committee.

Max reported on the property, at the corner of Merion Avenue and City Avenue, which has been beautifully replanted. Max asked for a Board thank you to Jerry for all his hard work. An applause followed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara McElroy, Secretary

Our Next Executive Board Meeting date in April T. B. A.