

**The Lower Merion Historical Society
Executive Board Meeting
ZOOM Meeting
Tuesday, September 15, 2020**

Present: Jerry Francis, Ken Brier, Leon Levine, Bobbie McElroy, George Lonsdorf, Ross Mitchell, Gary Brock, Rachel Wolgemuth, Christina Fink, Martha Moffat, Carole Strickland, Bruce Gill.

Absent: Brad Upp, Perrin Hamilton, Max Buten

The meeting was called to order at 7:39 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

The Minutes from the January 14, 2020 Board Meeting were unanimously approved.

Opening Remarks - Jerry Francis

The Historical Society is a living organization and we must keep pace with the ever changing times. In 1999 with the election of a new President and Vice President (myself & Christine Jones) we experienced a transition from a closed or a traditional “membership only” type of organization to a new Historical Society with the New Slogan – “**We Are Family**”. For the past +20 years we have been open to new volunteers and new ideas; for example, cf. “Volunteer Hall of Fame” report.

Due to the Covid-19 virus we have not formally met since January 2020. Unfortunately we missed our April and June Board Meetings but we were kept informed with society activities with the distribution of 9 emails...April 28th, May 29th, June 5th, June 22nd, June 30th, July 10th, August 4th, August 17th, and September 1st. We remained a working organization, but due to Covid-19 restrictions, we had limited patron visitations and no newsletter publications (only a January and February edition).

Mostly due to societal changes and a post-Covid-19 environment, we expect 2021 to be another transition year for our Historical Society.

For example, at our April 2021 Annual Business and Election of Officers Board Meeting - and after 22 years as your President - I will be “retiring” and taking on the role of “Immediate Past President.” Thanks to the ongoing work of the Executive Committee, we anticipate a smooth transition of leadership.

Executive Committee Report - Christina Fink presented an overview of the work that this Committee has been doing over these past few months.

Treasurer’s Report (2019) – Leon Levine presented the 2019 Financial Statements. Upon review they were approved unanimously.

Financial Review Committee Report (2019) – Gary Brock & Carole Strickland presented their report for 2019 along with their recommendations. After a discussion, it was unanimously approved.

Treasurer’s Report (2020) - Leon Levine presented the July 31, 2020 Financial Reports for discussion and consideration. They were approved unanimously.

Property Report – Ken Brier & Jerry Francis updated everyone on the status of the Lower Merion Academy, SEPTA’s Cynwyd Station, the Trail’s End Café, and the Caretaker apartment.

Database Administration/Newsletter – nothing to report at this time (open position)

Library Services – Jerry Francis reported that we are open to the public by appointment only.

Website/Facebook/YouTube – George Lonsdorf presented his report of the various improvements that he has made and a list of some upcoming changes.

Membership – nothing to report (open position)

Education & Programs – Perrin Hamilton is working on two lectures. One will be live at West Laurel Hill on October 13th and the other will be a ZOOM session on December 7 at that the Bala Cynwyd Library.

Publications & Public Relations- There was an update on these two book projects:

- Philadelphia's Pencoyd Iron Works: Forging Along the Schuylkill River
- Back from Battle: Pennsylvania Camp Discharge & Its War-Weary Vets

Our Next Board Meeting will be in January 2021 at a date and time to be determined

Respectfully submitted
by Jerry Francis