

Meeting Minutes – September 2011

September 13, 2011 Hiltonia General Membership Meeting

The September 13th meeting was held at the home of John and Grete Lamb. There were 35 people in attendance.

The meeting began at 7:40 p.m. with a presentation by Helen Shannon, of the Trenton Historical Society. Ms. Shannon discussed the mission of the Society, which is to preserve and present the history of Trenton. She discussed a number of issues the Society is involved in and noted that they have a podcast which a user can download to follow George Washington's trek through Trenton. One issue the Society has been active in is in the effort to keep the Petty's Run archeological dig site open and available for public view. (The site is located on State House grounds and the State is seeking to fill it in.)

Ms. Shannon mentioned her organization's grant program, "Restore Trenton," which offers awards, ranging from \$500 to \$3000, to owners rehabilitating their homes' exteriors. Homes must be at least 50 years old. The application process starts in early spring, with awards given in May. Grant winners have one year to complete their project.

The Society's annual gala, "The Wrecking Ball," will be held on November 19 at the old Liederkrantz Hall on Clinton Avenue. Further information is available on their website: www.trentonhistory.org.

Doug Hughes, Urban Renewal Supervisor in the Trenton Historic Preservation Office, then spoke to the attendees. The Office works to preserve facades around the city—especially homes in the eight Historical Designated neighborhoods (Hiltonia is not one of them).

The Historical Commission meets on the second Wednesday of the month and Mr. Hughes said they are trying to get people from a greater variety of neighborhoods.

Although the Commission discontinued its Landmarks Award this year, it is hoping to restart it in the spring.

Mr. Hughes discussed a senior grant program for people aged 62 and older (50, if widowed). Grants of \$3,500 are available for rehabbing. There are also loans of \$5000 that must be repaid in full, but that do not have to be repaid until the property changes ownership. Income limits apply.

New Business

The business meeting began at 8:40. Ellen Heath, of Friends of the Marsh, talked about "Voices for the Marsh," the organization's sixth juried photography show. Photos must be

taken at the Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh. The theme is "The Marsh, a timeless natural treasure in an urban landscape." Prizes will be awarded in the following categories: plants, wildlife, natural habitats, and people connecting with nature. Adult and youth entries will be judged separately. Entries are due January 5. For more information about Friends of the Marsh, or the photography show, go to the website at: www.marsh-friends.org.

Rev. Donald Medley, pastor of the Cadwalader-Asbury Methodist Church on Stuyvesant Avenue, spoke briefly on the needs of the working poor he sees among the people who come to the Church's food pantry. Food, toiletries and monetary donations are desperately needed. Susan Robinson spoke about the food banks in the West Ward. She would like to start a group to help out at the pantry once every two months. (The pantry is open on Thursdays, from 3-6 p.m.) Susan also said the Association will be having food drives.

Susan then asked members for any Hiltonia memorabilia that could be loaned as part of a history poster being assembled for the Trenton Council of Civic Associations dinner on November 4th. She asked that anyone with photos or other types of mementos call either Pat Flores or her. (For anyone interested, the dinner starts at 6 p.m. and is being held at the Masonic Temple. Call Marcia Youngs, 609-346-8852 for more info.)

Old Business

The minutes of the May General Meeting were approved.

Communications

Brian Viehland discussed the new and improved Association website. Michael Nalbhone said response to the Neighborhood Directory has been very good and the directory should be available in October. He said membership in the Egroup is also growing.

Treasurer's Report

As of April 30, 2011, there is \$4,188.35 in checking. Expenses from June and August totaled \$735.34, leaving a balance as of 8/31/11 of \$3,603.01.

a. Membership: there were 145 members as of 8/31/11.

A list of charities to support will be presented for a vote at the next General Meeting.

Committee reports

Children's Committee

The Children's Halloween Party will be held at Brian Viehland's house, 119 Kensington Ave., on October 29. The rain date is October 30.

Civic

There were no neighborhood flooding issues from the recent hurricane and storms; however, there were a number of downed trees.

Events/Social Activities

The neighborhood dinner is Wednesday, September 21, at 6 p.m. at the Marriott. The adult Halloween Party is scheduled for Friday night, 7 p.m., Oct. 27. We are looking for a host. The next General Meeting will be on Nov. 9th at 7:30. Host TBD. National Night Out on August 2nd was well attended. The New Neighbor Coffee Klatch was held in August. We met a few new neighbors.

The Hiltonia House Tour – May 2012

HGTV info is on the Hiltonia website. We are looking for media contacts. Contact Elise if you know anyone who might want to cover this. We are still looking for a non-profit sponsor for a 501©3.

Neighborhood Investment Committee

Nothing to report.

Miscellaneous

Linda Reid is looking for three or four volunteers to help distribute flyers. Please contact her (phone number on the website) if you can help.