

ASBURY PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Minutes, Annual Membership Meeting: Thursday, January 15, 2015 held at the Asbury Park Public Library at 7:00 PM

Trustees Present: Chomko, Damato, Harris, Rosenberg, Stine, Troppoli (quorum achieved)

Trustees Absent: Chapman, Henry, Sobotka Shulman

President's Report:

President Don Stine provided the AP Historical Society's Annual Report, and listed the following achievements for 2014:

The Stephen Crane House (SCH) is now listed on NJ Registry of Historic Places

Successful Fund-Raising Campaign to Purchase Crane House

Open House Tour of Crane House

Morro Castle 75th Anniversary Commemoration and Lecture Program at the Jersey Shore Arts Center

Springwood Avenue Exhibit (currently at *Heaven Art and Antiques*, in conjunction with the *Light of Day* music festival) & At Monmouth University in February, 2015
50/50 Raffle

Improved Internet Presence

Promotion Table in Grand Arcade and Oysterfest

Monmouth County Archive Day Table

Campaign launched on Convention Hall Copper Panels theft and replacement

Kate Mellina Lecture: The History of the Asbury Park Boardwalk

Annual Boardwalk Art Show

Revisions to By-Laws (As Required)

Don elaborated on several of the 2014 achievements, and stated that the SCH fund drive, which has presently raised \$118,000.00 needs to reach its \$250,000.00 goal. Once the house is purchased from its current owner, Frank D'Alessandro, the society will be able to apply for grants. This is expected to take place within the next few weeks.

Charlie Horner spoke on the present exhibit on the city's West Side music scene, which made the front page of today's *Asbury Park Press*.

Don also looked to potential future projects, which included:

A documentary of the SCH, which might be done as a student project through Brookdale CC or Monmouth University

Restoration of the Turf Club sign-this neon sign was the marquee of a well-known jazz club on the West Side. It is expected to need \$10,000.00 to restore and could be displayed in the city transportation center.

More society-sponsored fund raisers and parties

A SHPO inquiry into the status of the investigation of the Convention Hall copper panel theft. Until this investigation has been formerly closed, Madison Marquette cannot/will not move on securing the open areas where the original panels were located. The structure remains in jeopardy.

Presentation on the SCH:

In the absence of David Sobotka, Susan Rosenberg co-chair with David Sobotka of the Historic Preservation Committee, presented an illustrated lecture on the SCH (built in c. 1878), which included a biography of the writer, a brief family history, the deed search, subsequent modifications to the property and the process for listing it on the NJ Registry of Historic Places.

The committee for the registry application consisted of Susan, David, Tom Chesek, the present resident of the SCH and Werner Baumgartner, City Historian. The entire application process took 2 years, with an additional 6 months after the application was submitted.

The SCH was discovered to be one of the boyhood homes of Stephen Crane (and the only existing former residence of the author remaining in the US) by Tom Hayes, when he purchased it in 1995. Hayes owned it until 2001, when he sold it to its present owner, Frank D'Alessandro for \$105,000.00. Frank has offered it to the APHS for the price of \$1.00.

Election results:

All current trustees on the ballot (Damato, Harris, Rosenberg) were re-elected. Frank D'Alessandro was elected as a trustee. There were no write-in candidates. The proposed by-laws were accepted. All ballot lines received 20 votes each.