

**Meeting of the Asbury Park Historical Society (A.P.H.S.)
Thursday, September 17, 2015
Stephen Crane House/Arbutus Cottage**

MINUTES

President Don Stine called the meeting to order at 7:42 P.M.

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Eileen Chapman, Teddy Chomko, Mary Damato, Kay Harris, Jim Henry, Susan Rosenberg, Andy Skokos, Don Stine

TRUSTEES ABSENT: Frank D'Alessando, Jennifer Schulman

PUBLIC ATTENDEES: Werner Baumgartner, Asbury Park City Historian; Tom Chesek, author, *Legendary Locals of Asbury Park*; Charlie and Pam Horner, Classic Urban Harmony, LLC (<http://www.classicurbanharmony.net>); Joseph Romanski, Santander resident; Susan Skokos; Dolly Sternesky, former trustee; Ray Sternesky, watercolor painter; Bob Stewart, Director, Asbury Park Public Library

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ray Sternesky would like to show his watercolors of old Asbury Park in the Stephen Crane House and give 40% of the sales to the A.P.H.S.

Bob Stewart proposed that on November 12th, the Asbury Park Public Library and the A.P.H.S. co-sponsor an event to introduce the library's history culminating with news of the new automated computer system, *SirsiDynix*. President Stine suggested that the proposal be put in writing for the October 15th meeting.

Tom Chesek made several suggestions: 1.) that a plaque be made for the Stephen Crane House. This was approved; 2.) that Stephen Crane be nominated for the New Jersey Hall of Fame; 3.) that the Stephen Crane House become a member of the Monmouth County Arts Council and therefore be in a position to qualify for grants; 4.) that he attend the Asbury Lanes's October 3rd garage sale where he would sell books and maps on behalf of the A.P.H.S.

Charlie and Pam Horner sponsored an outdoor concert, *Quiet Storm*, on August 31st in conjunction with the exhibit at the Monmouth County Historical Association Museum, 70 Court Street, Freehold, NJ.

The exhibit, "Spirituals to Soul; African American Musical Heritage in Monmouth, 1880 – 1980, is coming down the week of November 9th. Volunteers are needed to help.

On February 20 2016, Charlie and Pam are sponsoring "Doo Wop Explosion: A Night of Acappella Harmony," 7:00 P.M., Pollack Theatre, Monmouth University.

Joseph Romanski shared that he made an appeal to the state attorney general in an attempt to have the owners of the Santander, an acclaimed, Deal Lake landmark building, preserve its historic structure.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: August minutes were accepted with corrections.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Don expressed concern for the timely and proper transfer of the Stephen Crane House from Frank D'Alessandro to the A.P.H.S. This involves legal documentation and bringing the building in compliance with code regulations. See "Legal Affairs" below.

The A.P.H.S. is forever grateful to Frank D'Alessandro for his greathearted, benevolent gift of the Stephen Crane House to the Asbury Park Historical Society.

In commemoration of the Morro Castle, Don placed a wreath of roses and lilies alongside the granite monument, south side of the Asbury Park Convention Hall. Sunset Florists did a beautiful job.

Don purchased a pop-up tent that will be used for the A.P.H.S. table at outside (fundraising) events, e.g., Oysterfest, Jazzfest.

Thank you to Susan Rosenberg for setting up and (wo)manning the A.P.H.S. table for each of the three days of Oysterfest.

Don commented on the historical information learned from passers-by at the A.P.H.S. table, e.g., the newest owner of the **Pennypacker house on 7th Avenue**. (Pennypacker was one of the earliest residents of A.P. He had a lumber yard and was president of the local board of health.)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget and Finance: Mary Damato announced that reimbursement forms are now on the Web site. The balances in each of the four accounts are below:

A.P.H.S. account:	\$ 10,752.00	(Mary)
PayPal account:	509.76	(Andy)
Gaming account:	6.06	(Andy)
S.C. House account:	\$121,632.69	(Andy)

Historic Preservation of Sites & Historic Buildings

The Historic Preservation Office, Trenton, sent letters to Dave Sobotka and Susan Rosenberg, co-chairs and Tom Chesek, confirming that the Stephen Crane House/Arbutus Cottage was entered into the New Jersey Register of Historic Places on **February 16, 2015** and on **August 18**, the National Register of Historic Places.

Jim Henry stated that in order for the A.P.H.S. to take ownership of the Stephen Crane House, there are 18 items that need to be addressed to meet code compliance, e.g., smoke alarms, plaster ceilings and stairwell. As for architectural restoration, a professional conservator may be consulted. All agreed that things need to be done right. The A.P.H.S. has 60 days.

Archives, Artifacts, Exhibits: Don Stine (president)

Teddy Chomko shared a variety of artifacts donated by the great, great grandchildren of Uriah White, an early Asbury Park settler who installed the first artesian well water system for residents to access pure water. An 1896 booklet is entitled the “25th Anniversary Celebration Souvenir and History of Asbury Park, 1860-1896.”

Once the S.C.H. is functional, artifacts will be accessioned, cataloged and housed there.

Legal Affairs, Gov't. Relations, & Grants: Jim Henry (vice president)

Attorney Mark Williams has been working with the A.P.H.S. trustee/attorney Jim Henry in preparation of the transfer of the Stephen Crane House. He presented the legal, tax, and insurance issues involving the three units on the property, i.e., the house itself, the rental apartment within, and the carriage house where Mr. D'Alessandro resides. He explained that the zoning board would not consider the subdivision of the 150' X 50' “Bradley lot” a viable option and, therefore, the units had to be condominium-ized to become compliant.

Jim and Mark are dealing with an 80-page resultant document.

The master deed is about to be filed in Freehold.

The Stephen Crane House Condominium Association, Inc, has been formed and includes Don Stine, Frank D'Alessandro, and Jim Henry. This body will oversee the property's upkeep, e.g., grass cutting, snow removal.

A Stephen Crane House standing committee will oversee budgeting.

Jim Henry made a formal proposal to amend the A.P.H.S. bylaws Article 8 (Committees), Section 3 (Standing Committees and their Assigned Functions) to add the “Stephen Crane House Condominium Association, Inc, and that it be administered by the A.P.H.S. Jim stated that the committee should be an ad hoc, or, interim committee until the annual membership meeting, January 21, 2016, when the general membership gets to vote on the bylaws.

The vote to propose amending the bylaws was approved by a unanimous vote

Parliamentary procedure requires that the resolution be placed on aphistoricalssociety.org three weeks prior to the January 21st meeting.

Programming: Frank D'Alessandro

In Frank's absence, Tom Chesek mentioned two free-to-the-public S.C.H. events: 1.) the classic film series “Lights, Camera, Politics,” 1st Saturdays, Oct. 3, Nov. 7, Dec. 5, and 2.) “Blithe Spirit,” Sept. 27th. Full information is on “The Stephen Crane House “ page in Facebook.

Social Events & Fundraising: Eileen Chapman & Teddy Chomko

The table at Oysterfest collected \$214 from sales of merchandise and donations.

Tom Chesek volunteered to attend the Asbury Lanes “garage sale” to sell books and maps for the A.P.H.S. on October 3rd.

Membership: Kay Harris

Kay announced that there are two new members this month.

Meeting Adjournment: 9:24 P.M

**Respectfully submitted
Susan Rosenberg**