

February 6, 2023 Historical Advisory Committee Meeting

Members Present: Monica Zuba, Carolyn Gant, Diane Stockinger, Colin McLain  
Kathryn Saxton-Granato, Carol Coulbourn

Members Absent: Joe Darminio, Frank Pfrommer, Joe Bilinski , Henry Kobik, Dee Simkins

Guest Present: Heather Flaim-Liaison from Twp. Committee

The Historical Advisory committee met at 7:00 p.m. in the History Center.

Members introduced themselves to Heather Flaim, Liaison from the Township Committee.

Mrs. Coulbourn informed members that she received a telephone call inviting our Committee to attend a program they were hosting on the Revolutionary period. She noted that as the conversation continued and the caller started giving directions, she realized that they had the wrong Township of Franklin. She thanked the caller; however, she explained that we were the County of Gloucester, Township of Franklin, and that the invitation was appreciated, but was a long distance to travel. She informed the caller that as Township Clerk for an extended period of time, she often received calls for the other Franklin Townships. She would ask the callers which Franklin Township and County they wanted to reach and would provide them with the proper number. They shared a laugh and she invited him that if he was ever in Gloucester County to contact her and they could meet at our History Center.

Mrs. Saxton-Granato thanked Mrs. Coulbourn for preparing the list of cemeteries in the Township. She also shared information of various symbols and their meanings found at old cemeteries. Discussion was held on perhaps having a cemetery tour in October.

Members shared tales of people being buried alive in the old days. It was noted that an elderly woman just recently was taken from a nursing home to a funeral, where they discovered she was still alive. She died a few days later.

Mr. McLain explained that was where the term “a dead ringer” came from in the old days. They would have a rope in the casket attached to a bell above the grave in the event the deceased was not actually dead.

Mrs. Coulbourn stated that she opens the Center most Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The Sr. Citizens meet on Wednesdays and often will stop by to visit. She informed members that the Garden Club is hosting an interactive diner play at the Star Cross Fire Hall. The tickets are \$50.00 and includes diner and the play.

Mrs. Gant stated that she had tickets if anyone was interested. She noted the proceeds go to a scholarship awarded to two graduating Delsea Students. She also stated she would be selling pretzels the day of the Library Book Sale to also assist the scholarship program.

Mrs. Coulbourn noted that we shared our tent with the Garden Club at Community Day and it worked out well for both groups. She noted that the Library’s Book Sale would begin at 8:00 a.m., however, the History Center would not be open until 10:00 a.m. due to the fact the only access the public has to the History Center is through the Library.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Coulbourn

