



City of Ansonia

HISTORICAL COMMISSION
City Hall
253 Main Street
Ansonia, Connecticut 06401

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ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT

Thomas P. Clifford, III, Chairman
Bartholomew Flaherty, Vice Chairman
Loisann Marazzi, Secretary
Mary Gibson
Katherine Wilkins

MINUTES HISTORICAL COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

The June 30, 2016 meeting was called to order at 7:00p.m. in the Erlingheuser Room, City Hall, by Chairman Thomas P. Clifford. All rose and pledged allegiance to the flag. Present were Thomas P. Clifford, Bart Flaherty, Loisann Marazzi, Mary Gibson and Kate Wilkins. Quorum present. Mary Ann Capone and Kelly Franco were also in attendance.

A MOTION to accept the previous Minutes of May 26, 2016 as presented was made by Bart Flaherty, with a **Second** by Loisann Marazzi. **MOTION PASSED.**

CORRESPONDENCE:

- A. Letter to the Ansonia Board of Aldermen regarding historical artifacts stored at the late Carol Starkey's home be removed and placed in the Historical Room of the Ansonia Library.

A MOTION to accept the correspondence, dispense with the reading and place on file was made by Bart Flaherty, with a **Second** by Loisann Marazzi. **MOTION PASSED.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. REPOSITORY FOR HISTORICAL ITEMS:

Loisann Marazzi stated that she has not heard from the board of aldermen regarding the artifacts stored in the late Carol Starkey's home, but that she will call Mr. Carroll to see if it was addressed at the June meeting.

Mary Ann Capone stated that she talked with Randy Carroll and told him that she can make room for the historical items to be stored in the historical room, but that she needs to have some things removed from the room by public works, and do some rearranging up there for the filing cabinet. I will just mention it to the mayor and Mike D'Alessio the next time that I see them, that I need to have some things removed.

B. PRESERVATION OF THE EVENING SENTINEL MICROFICHE:

Mr. Clifford stated that we are in the early stages of digitizing the microfiche and that we are so happy to have both of you here, and to see how to approach this. Our major concerns are: what options are out there, what cost might be involved, what funding may be available. With that why don't we get started.

Ms Capone stated that she would like to defer to Ms Franco because she has done more of the heavy duty researching as to what is involved. I did more on the copyrights, because that was my big fear. Who owns the rights to the reels? The goods news is anything before 1923 is in the public domain and do not need any permission. We have seen some grants out there through the State Library, that they are looking to digitize the newspapers prior to 1922. After 1922 you get into real issues with the copyrights.

Tom stated there is a great resource that was shared at our last meeting and her name is Jane Cullinane who works at the State Library, we thought was a good starting point and wanted to share with the both of you. One of the items she brought up was the copyrights and she had some ideas on how it could be approached, which were very helpful. The State Library has received two grants, looking at World War I era, all before 1922. Kelly would you like to give us some of your thoughts.

Kelly, yes I think the first thing is once we decide who is going to be involved in this project with us, meaning other towns, because Seymour and Derby have full copies of the microfiche. If they were in fact interested, than we can pursue funding with them and from there you want to look at the equipment we currently have, we have the microfilm machine, there is an option that we would have to further that, but to put a pc interface card on to it, which would then allow you to get it on to a computer. I don't know now if the technology is up to date but it is something to pursue. If not you can rent equipment, that is something you should consider. The technology has come very far, once you put it on a computer and digitize it, you then can use software to clean up the images and get it to where it needs to be. But the equipment if you were to buy it would probably cost about \$8,000.00.

Ms. Capone said what we have was purchased in 2002 and we could have purchased a pc interface but at the time we did not pursue it. We do not know if it is still available because it is fourteen years old.

Kelly stated that she did find a site that has it, and it was about \$400.00 but did not know if it would work.

Loisann asked if Derby and Seymour would be interested?

Maryann said she would ask them, and even Derby Neck and Plumb Memorial.

Kelly mentioned the current films we have at the library are old and deteriorating, who has the master, from what I'm hearing the copyright is still a question, and who is the true owner and will they give permission, from 1922 on, and a discussion followed.

Loisann stated that she brought this up at the Friends of the Ansonia Library meeting and they agreed if we need someone to be a nonprofit the Friends would be it.

Mr. Clifford said that he knows that Mayor Cassetti is very supportive, he is a great supporter of city history. Are there any other thoughts or ideas?

Bart suggested that there are a lot of avenues to pursue, first we have to define how many reels we want to digitize, who has the copyrights, find out who has the masters, how much is it going to cost per reel, once we get that solved, we can go to different sources to get funding and maybe the online Sentinel might even be interested in assisting in some manner.

Mary Ann Capone stated that there are 385 reels of the Sentinel.

Chairman Clifford thought the first step is maybe go back to the CT State Library and talk to Jane Cullinane to see what suggestions that she has. In the meantime Mary Ann will contact Shelton, Derby, Derby Neck and Seymour to see if they are interested.

Kelly offered to call the CT State Library and find out the direction the commission should take.

Tom asked, is there anyone that would like to assist Kelly, and Kate and Bart said that they would be happy to assist.

I moved that we have a subcommittee to assist Kelly Franco with the digitization of the Evening Sentinel and that Kate Wilkins, and Bart Flaherty will represent the Ansonia Historical Commission, was made by Loisann Marazzi, with a **Second** by Thomas Clifford. **MOTION PASSED.**

Thomas Clifford thanked the volunteers for stepping up, and a special thank you for Ms. Capone and Ms Franco for attending and assisting on this project.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

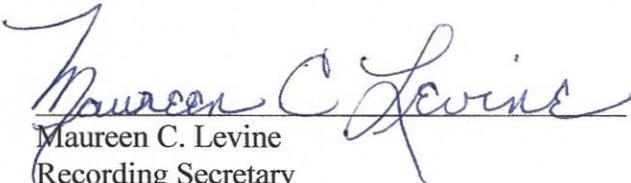
None

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, September 29, 2016.

There being no further business to discuss, A **MOTION** to adjourn was made by Loisann Marazzi, with a **Second** by Kate Wilkins. **MOTION PASSED.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55.

Respectfully submitted,


Maureen C. Levine
Recording Secretary