

Minutes of the Warner Free Lecture Meeting
Monday, March 13, 2017
Town Hall

Present: Pat Jennings, Mary Maxwell, Lisa Foley, Tom Aciukewicz, Sheila Simollardes

Not present: Tim Clark

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

We reviewed the minutes of the February 6, 2017 meeting. Pat moved to approve the minutes as amended, vote to approve was unanimous.

Old Business

We reviewed the Sounds of Nature lecture on February 7. It was a lovely night. It was a bit long...it was difficult to hear without a microphone. Perhaps we should look into how to set up a microphone for future lectures. Turn out was about 50 people.

New Business

Lisa made a motion to officially thank Mary for her six years of service on the Board. She helped us schedule and set up over 34 lectures for the benefit of the town. We unanimously approved and spent a few minutes recollecting the old days.

Taz volunteered to set up an individualized website serviced via the town. He'll work with Lisa to organize it after he gets details from Julie Doucet. Lisa will forward Taz an email from Julie. Sheila will proofread content on the site.

We unanimously voted to educate the Town Charter Commission about why the Warner Free Lecture should remain an independent, elected board. Pat will contact Ron Ostberg to let him know that we'd like get into this Thursday's meeting agenda.

Future lectures for 2016-2017 season

March 24 @ 7.30pm - Lisa finalized the opera-related program with the Greater Worcester Opera about an Opera 101. They may answer the question, What is opera? Cost is \$500 for which Lisa submitted a PO. Tim reported that Fanfare committed \$250 to co-sponsor this event.

Tasks: Lisa will let Mary Wilson know ahead of time we need a microphone for talking to the audience.

Lisa is doing the Press article; Taz will do the email blast.

This lecture wraps up the season.

Ideas for future programs

We agreed to solidify the idea that next year's theme will be "Discovery." The board was enthusiastic about the idea as it could be part of the promotional materials for the upcoming season. We'll come up with five lectures from these potential lectures:

1. Tiny House – Taz will contact person at Emerson Umbrella who built a tiny house to see if she could put a program together about what living in a tiny house is like, what experiences she encountered throughout the year.
2. Sheila saw a reenactment called "The Wave" about a tidal wave that was created in Norway after a Fjord earthquake. Sheila is still fact-finding.
3. Pat is discussing an Indian Hill Music program around an English author, Anne Airs, who wrote a book about Women composers. We would like to target March 23, 2018 and will try to confirm. It looks quite promising. Cost will be \$200.
4. Tim is in touch with Fernando Catalina who suggested we reach out to the author of "Waking Up White," Debbie Irving, who lives locally.
5. Tim suggested we do a three person Women in Science roundtable panel to discuss what they do. We could target the science department at Bromfield.
6. Tim emailed us a third option about a project to save Falling Water, a landmark Frank Lloyd Wright architectural gem located in western Pennsylvania. Notoriously under engineered, this iconic building was restored and stabilized by the structural engineering firm Robert Silman Associates. Retired Principle and founder Robert Silman has offered to come a speak about this remarkable building and what it took to save it. His presentation includes many slides from the project.

We will finalize our ideas for next season's lectures at the next meeting.

We adjourned the meeting at 7.15 pm.

Next Meeting: Monday April 10 at 6:00PM at Town Hall.