

Solebury Township Historical Society 2014 Strategic Plan: Year in review

The Board reviews our full year of activity in light of the 12 action & objectives spelled out in the plan. Please refer to the Strategic Plan for details. This review is designed to only mention the different, new and major milestones. A wealth of other, ongoing “regular” volunteer efforts have sustained and advanced the Society’s position in our community. These actions are reviewed in the Society’s news letter, The Chronicle (another 100% volunteer effort!).

1. Invigorate Membership: Due to Board person changing our campaign did not advance our membership count; we remain steady.

2. Qualify Schoolhouse for Historic registration: it appears the Schoolhouse is not eligible for historic designation by the State, however we may get this designation at the County level.

3. Hold one ‘major’ fund raising event/year. We decided to mount this campaign, the dinner, every 18 months. Next one May 30, 2015.

4. Fund Raising

i. Grant applications are off to a steady pace. Data is being collected to allow easier grant writing. We received one grant that funded our ‘Underground RR presentation.’

ii. *We have asked for slightly more ‘enter’ money at each social occasion/gathering.

* We joined the #Giving Tuesday nationwide campaign to help fund our scholarships.

iii. Business membership is steady, but we have not grown it.

5. Landscape plan and items: We did not develop a plan but small jobs were accomplished by volunteers.

6. Interior Schoolhouse fixtures & organization: this is making progress and we are in a position to host small gatherings for talks and activities.

7. Archives: We accepted the Rivinus, Davidson Photo and Waring collections, as well as a number of interesting books. Good progress was made on numerous fronts to edit the library, fortify on line presentations of archives including Rivinus’ books and posting 75 Oral Histories to our web site. We began a plan to systematically organize our collections in a comprehensive filing system. Strong Volunteer work and hours drove all of these efforts.

8. Collaboration with “sister” non profits has been productive: the Underground RR tour which STHS lead, included NHHS and Solebury Meeting. STHS’ Oral History program produced NHHS’s collection on line, and we began cooperating with Michener Museum to produce their Oral Histories on line.

9. Opening the Schoolhouse for Saturday visits: Unfortunately we have not yet found volunteers to man the desks.

10. Attract new Volunteers for Board and project work: Good result for Archives, a new 2015 Treasurer & events set up volunteers. The insight gained from our efforts is we need to keep this at the front of the agenda.

11. Schoolhouse Evening Educational meetings: remains a goal. Efforts diverted to the Underground RR events.

12. Schoolhouse: investigate enlarging the footprint. Some discussion begun. Will remain an objective to learn first, before actions.

13. Web Site: Although not listed as a strategic point in the 2014 plan the expansion and growing sophistication of our web site has been a major ongoing event throughout the year. Publications like the interactive map tours, calendar count down and sliders that announce events and points of interest, constantly changing home page photos, fund raising requests, and a redesign of our search bar with the addition of RESEARCH which leads to many new archive presentations, all demonstrate to communication and our education missions.

14. Building renovation and Sign installation: we capped off the final renovations (roof, windows, wiring, etc. but installing a sign on the corner of 293 and No. Suga Road.

*****end of report*****