

**Van Riper House, Inc.**  
**Virtual Meeting**  
**Via Zoom**  
**April 9, 2020 7:30 PM**

Attendance:

Dante Intindola

John Demmer

Janice Fraser

Marion Butler

Patricia Williams

Barbara Davide

Maryann Lauber

Jeana Somers

Peggy Calles

Kaitlyn Quinn

Michael Gustafson

Chris J. Schopfer – (Guest: published genealogical author, descendent of Van Ripers)

Meeting called to order 7:35 PM.

1. Bylaws - Adopt a set of bylaws that makes sense for current operations, we just need 2/3 majority to approve these blanket amendments as per changes made at the March meeting, John approves, Marion seconded. Unanimously approved.

2. Scholarship readings – Barbara Hirsch, Kaitlyn, Peggy – winner is Shannon Granelli, Pattie will double check to make sure it's a different person than the recipient for Historical Society.

3. Boy Scout project with Dan Holler – John Demmer: No updates, everything is on hold. Plans on cleaning the kitchen, originally wanted to take down cabinets and tile. Wants to look at the header above the front porch because it's rotten, and that needs to be changed out before the deck is able to be worked on. There's no time constraint for this project, it will happen but will just happen later than we had hoped. Perhaps as a group we finalize what we want to do based on old pictures/plans. This will likely be a summer project.

Dante contacted art history professor Carla Yanni at Rutgers for referral to a preservationist.

4. Website: vanriperhouse.org is new website, can post minutes, RFQs, it's ad-free

5. Work on online recruitment of new members

6. Barbara – Not much of an update, no deposits and no checks written, so should be the same as last month, will mail treasurer's report to Janice.

Dante: According to a preliminary analysis. We posted an approximate \$300 surplus in 2019, so we did not lose money in 2019

7. Accountant from Caruso Thompson has all information, state and federal tax filing deadline has been pushed back to July 15 so there is not as much of a rush.

8. Dante went to the house and saw some water damage. Spring clean up – need plywood bolstered and window coverings. Also, John observed raccoons in the kitchen roof. We need to call an exterminator.

9. Consider direct mail and email campaigns to increase membership. Plan to build a nest egg as we get ourselves ready for applying for grants in 2021.

10. We work on getting historic designation and Chris will work on contacts with other Van Riper descendants

11. Dante: The Anarchist's Guide to Historic House Museums – want all the officers to read it and watch a video by one of its authors. Difficult for places similar to Kingsland Manor to maintain relevance, this book as good information for funding and repurposing a historic home

12. Dante and Chris: Possibly look into carbon dating or a dendrochronologist to do a tree ring analysis to date the home. Is it the oldest house in Essex County?

13. Maryann makes motion to adjourn, John D seconds.

Next meeting – May 7, 2020