

The Port Norris Historical Society
Monthly Meeting
January 13, 2026

Members Present: E. Bernhardt, D. Berry, R. Berry, V. Campbell, R. Cobb, D. Cunningham, J. Elwell, G. Guidera, F. Hickman, M.L. Lacotte, J. Lore, J. M. Lore, J. Maddox, J. Massey, A. Martinez, J. Martinez, D. Pettit, S. Ricci, R.A.Smith, P. Smith

October Meeting: The regular meeting of the Port Norris Historical Society was held Tuesday, January 13, 2026, commencing at 6:38 p.m., with President, Rachel Cobb, being in the chair, and the Secretary being present.

Review of Minutes: The December 2025 minutes and the agenda for the January 2026 meeting were emailed to members on January 12, 2026. A motion to approve the December 2026 corrected minutes (change date of Open House to read December 6, 2025) was made by Virginia Campbell, seconded by Gloria Guidera, and unanimously approved by members present.

Treasurer's Report: The December 2025 Treasurer's report was emailed to the PNHS board members on January 10, 2026. A motion was made by Joyce Massey, seconded by Sam Ricci and approved by board members present, representing a quorum of officers and trustees. The report will be filed for audit.

Monetary Donations: Faye Hickman reported receipt of \$48.00 in cash donations at the Open House in December. In addition, sponsors for the soup dinner have contributed \$1,950.00 to date. Both amounts are reflected in the December 2025 Treasurer's Report.

Virginia Campbell's grandchildren mailed a monetary donation as a Christmas gift in honor of their grandmother and grandfather.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Virginia Campbell, chairperson, reported two new members bringing the total membership for the year 2025 to 60 members.

Correspondence:

Gloria Guidera stated sympathy cards were sent to Joyce Massey, in the passing of her brother and to Dean Berry, in the loss of his father-in-law.

Thank you cards were sent to Virginia Campbell's grandchildren for their donations.

A note of appreciation was received from Dick Smith, thanking the historical society for recognizing him by hanging a banner in his honor at the grand opening ceremonies on December 6, 2025.

Collections: Joyce Lore presented insignia pins from the Port Norris Grammar School dated 1953. Donna Pettit donated a photograph of local women attending a function at the Port Norris VFW or Fire Hall. The photo was passed around, with most ladies recognized by members.

President's Report: Meeting: Rachel Cobb reported she met with Eileen Wiggins, President of the Mauricetown Historical Society, and Rachel Dolhancyk, from the Bayshore Museum, for a brainstorming session. The three organizations would like to coordinate open hours for visits. It was suggested an information flier be designed to promote the three groups.

Window art: Rachel discussed the idea to purchase decals of local store fronts for the front windows. She would design the decals using an online website. It was decided to order a sample decal (10" tall by 4" wide) for \$25.00 for visual purposes to assist with the window design.

Seed Swap: The free event is scheduled for Saturday, January 31st from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Rachel received seeds donated from Baker Creek seeds; a Millville garden center owner will bring leftover seeds; a Woodstown resident plans to attend and bring heirloom pepper seeds. Master Gardeners will be present, available for questions, distributing fliers.

Historical society members are asked to assist with security coverage upstairs, in the back room and to greet guests at the front door. Membership fliers will be available; our donation box will be in a visible area.

Legends 2026: PNHS Legends for 2026

Living Legends: *John Hoffman, Dr. Cadmus S. Hull, Thelma Barnes Weems*

Legend: *David Lake Berry*

Mary Linda Lacotte stated the Legends and/or family members have been notified by telephone and will receive congratulatory letters by mail.

Mary Linda L. is waiting for the NJ Motorsports Park to return message with charges to determine the cost per person for the brunch buffet.

Menu items include breakfast breads and muffins, fresh fruit, French toast, breakfast meats, fried potatoes, tossed green salad, lemon chicken, cheese tortellini, and chef made personal omelets.

Contributions for themed baskets will be discussed at the January meeting.

Rachel stated the plaque for the tree planted in John Hickman's memory will be ordered with the Legends plaques.

Soup Dinner: Faye Hickman has volunteered to chair this year's main fundraiser.

Dean Berry stated the fire trucks will be moved out of the fire hall around 11:00 a.m., with setting up the room starting at 12 noon. Assignments: Joyce M. and Pat S. will do take-outs, Virginia C. will prepare salads for take-outs, set-up for eating in. Rose Ann S. and Eileen B. will be at the dessert tables. Servers include Rachel C., Gloria G., Robin B., Jose M., Amy R., and Robin S. Six young people have been contacted to help with tables. Members needed to service the coffee and tea table. Alyssa M. will be

at the merchandise table. Faye H. and Lisa K. will be collecting tickets at the check-in table at the door. Virginia C. will donate the gallons of milk needed for the soups. Faye H., Pat S., Virginia C., and Rachel C. will coordinate the on-line ordering of supplies. It was stressed that all able members are needed to volunteer their assistance.

Alarm System: Rachel C. stated the smoke detectors are not benefiting us as no one hears the warning signal since the detectors are not connected to a central system. As stated at the December meeting, the system is ten years old and needs to be upgraded. It was decided at the December meeting to obtain quotes from two companies. Everon is our current security system (ADT's company for commercial accounts). Effective January 20, 2026, Everon will transfer all notifications to text messages, eliminating all phone call alerts. Our service fee is approximately \$750.00 annually with Everon.

To be prepared for discussion, detailed proposals were emailed to active members of the historical society prior to the January meeting. A copy of the two quotes will be attached to the minutes.

Proposals: * *Everon* – First proposal was over \$8,000; second quote was \$4500, with a monthly fee of \$63.00.

* *Security Solutions Plus* – local company quote of \$1,990 (Wi-Fi based), with a \$50.00 monthly fee.

Additional questions and information presented at the meeting, would the proposal quote be extended until the February meeting?

Alternative solutions: Ring doorbell with cameras inside and out; smoke detectors on an APP. Could we have a temperature gauge added in heater room?

It was the consensus of members present not to accept the upgraded Everon system.

Comments/Suggestions/Announcements:

Dean Berry asked for permission to have the fire department do a walk through to become familiar with the layout of the building. Members agreed the walk through was good practice.

Pat Smith noted the township will host road clean-ups this Spring. Organizations that participate can receive \$500; the historical society may have the opportunity to do a second clean-up. Dates will be announced later.

Suggestion – host a yard sale in the parking lot, rent spaces for fee.

Rachel Cobb adjourned the meeting at 7:53pm.

The next meeting of the PNHS will be held on February 10, 2026, at 6:30p.m.

Mary Linda Lacotte,
Recording Secretary