

The Port Norris Historical Society

General Meeting

January 9, 2018

Attending: E. Bernhardt, R. Berry, G. Campbell, R. Cobb, F. Hickman, J. Hickman, Joanne Hickman, L. Hoffman, J. Lacotte, M.L. Lacotte, S. Ricci, D. Smith, R. Smith.

Meeting called to order by Rachel Cobb, President.

Review of Meeting Minutes: In an e-mail dated Jan. 7 2018, Alvina Baum corrected the date of the Soup and Chili Dinner to now read March 3 in place of the March 30th date as stated in the original minutes. No further additions or corrections to the minutes; motion to accept the minutes as emailed / corrected made by Joanne Hickman, 2nd by Ginny Campbell. All in favor - Approved.

Treasurer's Report: Liz Hoffman, Treasurer, reviewed the copy of the December report. Clarification of the Print, Signs and Designs bill paid was for copies of the Historical Society coloring books. There being no questions or further comments regarding the report, a motion to approve by Dick Smith, 2nd by Sam Ricci. All in favor - Approved.

Rachel Cobb commented on bills to be paid. The web-site payment of \$99.00 is due in February. She received a check from Liz to prepay the bill. There is a payment of \$14.95 due for the Watermen's Memorial website which is under our account. The website is on our hosting website. A question was raised asking if we should absorb the cost?

It was reported that we have received no donations this month.

Correspondence: Alvina had not received any correspondence. Rachel reported the PNHS received a Christmas card from the couple from Washington, D.C. Also, we received an e-mail from Thomas Rizzo who is on our email list, thanking us for our newsletters.

Committee Reports:

Collections: Robin Berry reported she had received no donations.

Dick Smith presented a Port Norris Roller Skating jacket which he obtained from the Bayshore collection. He contacted Ron Bowden, former PN resident, who said it was not a skating team jacket, but was probably used as a fundraising project. The jacket was from the period between the 1950's or 1960's.

Membership: Ginny Campbell stated all members have been sent an e-mail reminding that annual membership fees for the year 2018 are now due. In addition, there are ten handwritten notices that were to be mailed for those not having e-mail addresses.

Cookbooks: Rachel C. will review the list and will begin to regroup with Eileen Bernhardt and Robin Berry and they will proceed this spring.

Chamber of Commerce Meeting: Sam Ricci attended the Christmas meeting which was held at the home of Dominick Capaldi. He reported that no one took minutes.

Welcome Committee: Joanne Hickman reported that no bags were handed out. A discussion noted the need to update material for 2018. Also, a copy of the most current newsletter will be included in each bag.

General Business:

Ad-Hoc Committee for By-Laws Review and Revision: The past committee members, Eddie and Kelly Adams, have moved. A new committee is needed to review the current by-laws. Rachel stated the two areas to be addressed are elections and trustees. The position of Secretary needs to be changed to include the positions of both Corresponding and Recording Secretary. Also, increasing the total number of trustees from five members up to a total of nine members was presented. The committee will be a short term one. Ginny Campbell volunteered to be on the committee and Gloria Guidera, who was absent, was suggested as a possibility.

Rachel Cobb reviewed our committees for the year 2018:

Chamber of Commerce – Sam Ricci, Chairperson

Collections – Robin Berry, Chairperson; Rachel Cobb, Dick Smith

Cookbooks – Eileen Bernhart, Chairperson, Robin Berry, Rachel Cobb, Gloria Guidera

Finance and Budget – Liz Hoffman, Chairperson; Dick Smith, Alvina Baum

Nominations – Joyce Massey, Chairperson

Welcome - Joanne Hickman, Chairperson

Building – Dick Smith, Chairperson; John Hickman

Alex Ogden House is up for Sheriff Sale on Wednesday, January 10th 2018. Alex had verbally promised that all documents and notes of local historian, Louise Mints would be donated to the

Port Norris Historical Society. The caregiver of Alex Ogden has been uncooperative and has not responded to any correspondence.

Mauricetown December House Tour Review Meeting: Nothing to report as the meeting was postponed due to inclement weather. The meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 15, 2018.

Legends Dinner: Mary Linda reported the meeting originally scheduled in November was canceled and another meeting will be set up with the NJ Motorsports Park Restaurant. She will ask for additional dates.

History Project: Rachel reported that she had spoken to the owner of the local Dino's business and has received permission to place three framed pieces of local Port Norris history in his building. Suggestions included the old school, Robbinstown Library / school, one of the churches, the Palomino restaurant, and the old movie theater. The hope is these photographs will appeal to the young people and instill an interest in the history of the town.

Witness Trees – Rachel introduced the concept of “witness trees” as trees that have withstood the test of time and have witnessed events in our local history. It is a different spin on presenting the history of an area. The “initial tree” was part of the discussion and a question arose as to its survival. Other suggestions were Alice Reed's holly tree and the trees at Robbinstown Library / School. Members are to look around the community for trees that would be living examples of our history.

Bayshore - Rachel D. is putting together a directory of the groups with a deadline of Friday, January 12th. Rachel C. will compile the information requested which is to include: a description of the

organization (using our mission statement) a logo (photo of our building), hours of operation, specific events (through August). Rachel D. would like to have another roundtable in the spring and consider designing a map of the area available for distribution to visitors.

Soup and Chili Dinner – Dick S. asked Joanne H. and Faye H. to have an inventory with our supplies including items left from the Mauricetown House tour food sale. Tickets and ticket sales forms were distributed to members in attendance. Dick asked everyone to record all sales information on the forms and return them to him by the February meeting. Monies collected from ticket sales will be returned to Liz H. or Dick S. Two hundred twenty tickets were printed; last year we sold around 200 tickets. Dick has 5 committed sponsors with two additional possible sponsors. Each sponsor will receive two tickets. There are five gallons of vegetable soup already made (leftover from the Mauricetown event and frozen) which will be used. Rachel stated that she has bags of frozen vegetables in her freezer. Everyone was urged to try to sell allotted number of tickets.

Building – Dick S. reported that electrical work is completed until the ceiling is finished. Putting up trim and spackling in the bathroom are next steps to be done. Bill Burton, of Frank Burton and Sons in Bridgeton, will be donating a toilet and vanity. Rachel C. has a room full of display shelving from the Canvas Bag, which she will donate (will be stored in the upstairs room after some of the construction is completed).

Delaware Bay Watermen's Memorial Meeting – Rachel will meet with Molly D., Alvina B., Liz H., Ginny C., Jackie McBride, and Rachel D. on January 24, 2018.

Good of the order - It was suggested that we consider ideas for sharing our history as well as preserving it, beginning with the history of our building, Laws and Laws and the old Fire House.

We could possibly designate certain funds (\$750.00) or ask businesses to donate. Rachel stated that we need fresh ideas for our newsletter. Ginny suggested we mention Wilson Smith, a graduate of the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, in our newsletter. Rachel has on our website two history links:

Tomorrow's History and Collecting Today's History. Rachel asked that we contact her with newsworthy items to add to these links.

Dick S. proposed to have the Soup and Chili Sale meeting on Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at 6:00 pm, one hour prior to our regular meeting, therefore eliminating the need for a separate meeting date.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Dick S. to adjourn the meeting.

Mary Linda Lacotte, Assistant Secretary