

The Port Norris Historical Society

October 12, 2022

Members Present: E. Bernhardt, V. Campbell, R. Cobb, G. Guidera, B. Hall, F. Hickman, J. Hickman, Liz Hoffman, M.L. Lacotte, J. Massey, S. Ricci, A. Robbins, D. Smith, M. Tortorici. **Guests:** Lisa Robbins, Emmett Vandegrift, Ashley Wonder, Rob Wonder.

The regular meeting of the Port Norris Historical Society was held on Tuesday, October 11, 2022, at 7:05 PM, in the Society's headquarters building, with President, Rachel Cobb, being in the chair and the Secretary present.

Guest Speakers: PNHS member Amy Robbins introduced community business partners, Emmett Vandegrift and Rob Wonder, of Pigment Holdings, LLC. As prospective local cultivators and distributors of medical and recreational cannabis, Emmett V. provided background information and answered questions from members present. Emmett V. and Rob W. are in the formal planning stages, having received a conditional use license from the state of NJ and a license approved by Commercial Township. They have a financial consultant in addition to operational partners located in California. Plans are for a major cultivation and manufacturing facility, with 150,000 square feet of indoor cannabis space. The facility will require an immense amount of power to run, with well water used throughout the plant. Cannabis is considered a consumable product and is held to the strictest regulations. The partners are hoping to be operational within the next 8 and 18 months. Currently the company is leasing 40 acres on Sockwell Road, twenty of which are buildable and twenty are considered wetlands. High security measures will be undertaken, employing local residents for positions in security. The company has partnered with Shiloh Baptist Church and Stockton University. They will continue to partner with non-profit organizations to provide grant underwriting and capital once the business is established and in production.

September Meeting: The September minutes and the meeting agenda for October 2022 were emailed to active members on October 10, 2022.

Review of Minutes: Virginia Campbell made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2022, meeting as emailed to active members. The motion was seconded by Gloria Guidera and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer, Sam Ricci, submitted and distributed the September Treasurer's report.

September checking account receipts totaled \$2900.30, including donations in the amount of \$2800.00 (Windows and Bivalve Packing), Amazon Smile donation (\$15.03), and \$85.00 in membership fees.

September checking account disbursements totaled \$5204.56, including a \$5000.00 down payment (Blackman reserve) to Guy Chamberlain for heater installation.

Payments in the amount of \$68.13 were disbursed for monthly utilities and \$135.43 for building supplies. Sam R. stated a second installment of the contract was paid to Guy Chamberlain on October 1, 2022, leaving no remaining balance in the Blackman reserve. A motion to accept the September 2022 Treasurer's report was made by Dick Smith and seconded by Liz Hoffman and approved by unanimous vote. The report will be filed for audit.

Building Update – Dick S. stated Guy Chamberlain has installed the new air conditioning unit and Mike Vizzard has installed wiring to the units. While Guy C. is working on the heating system, he will lay the insulation for an additional charge.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: Ginny C. reported there are currently 71 members (two new members). The last five memberships, received in the second half of the year, will not expire until December 2023.

Correspondence: Gloria G. had no correspondence to report this month.

Welcome: Faye and Pat have two families to visit in the next few weeks.

Collections: Rachel C. reported two books were logged in to the collection.

Honor Roll – Eileen B., Rachel C., and Liz H. attended the viewing of Rev. Barnes. Twenty copies of the Legends cookbook were given to the family in remembrance of Rev. Barnes. Flowers from the PNHS were ordered from Alisa Flowers for his funeral services. Dick suggested Rev. Ernest Barnes, with his recent passing, be added to the Honor Roll. Gloria Guidera made a motion to add Reverend Ernest Barnes to the PNHS Honor Roll, with a second by Eileen Bernhardt. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Joan Harper Visit – Rachel C. arranged for 98 year old Joan (Riggin) Harper to visit the PNHS building. In September, accompanied by her son, Michael and daughter, Mary Annie, she was able to spend part of a time touring the building.

Reading Room – Rachel C. received an email from Michael Harper after his family's visit. He asked if it would be possible to name the reading room in memory of Ethalinda Blackman, a family friend. Following discussion, Faye Hickman made a

motion to name the upstairs room the “Ethalinda Blackman Reading Room”. The motion was seconded by Eileen Bernhardt and carried by a unanimous vote. A plaque with the name will be ordered for the room.

Legends 2023 – Mary Linda L. announced there are two rollovers from the 2022 Past Legends, *Charles Amos Camper* and *Joseph Dagastine*, who will be part of the 2023 ceremony. The following names were presented at the September 13th meeting:

Living Legends: *John Maddox* and *JoAnne Hickman* nominated by Dick Smith
Wayne Birmingham nominated by Mariea Moore

Past Century Legend: *Ethalinda Blackman* nominated by members
R. Shirley Taylor nominated by her daughter (form to Liz Hoffman)

Dick S. read the nomination forms for both John Maddox and JoAnne Hickman. A nomination form received for Shirley Taylor, nominated by her daughter, was read by Rachel C. Although nominated in September, there was no nomination form available for Wayne Birmingham. Voting for 2023 Legends will be held by secret ballot during the November meeting.

Mary Linda informed members she will continue to pursue an inquiry regarding the 2019 deposit paid to the NJ Motorsports Park which was to be rolled over for the November 2020 awards luncheon (due to Covid).

Yard Sale – A profit of \$117.50 was realized from sales at the Community yard sale in Haleyville on October 8th. Rachel C. thanked Dick and Pat S., Gloria G., Joyce M., Ginny C., and Sam R. for all their assistance on that Saturday.

New Canopy Tent - Rachel C. informed members a new canopy tent, which could be used for future outdoor events was purchased following a discussion at the September meeting. The profit made at the yard sale covered the cost (\$108.00) of the tent.

Transom – Rachel C. contacted Debi Hollinger and she will begin work on the front door transom during the winter months of 2023.

Wi-Fi – no updates to report

November meeting - Nominations for board members and officers will be presented by Joyce M. at the November meeting. Voting for these positions will be held during the December meeting.

December meeting – Belinda H. will co-host a round table as part of the upcoming December meeting. During last December’s Zoom meeting, Belinda spoke about growing up in Port Norris.

Comments, Suggestions, Concerns:

Kenneth Dragston email – Mary Linda L. questioned if anyone had information to share regarding the name Dragston.

Building – Dick S. and John H. installed stair tread on the seps leading to the second floor. Thank you to both for their work.

Display units – Rachel C. asked if the display units she previously purchased were needed for displays in the building. The disassembled units will be stored in the building until work is completed upstairs and a determination is made.

Next meeting: November 8, 2022

Meeting adjourned 8:30pm

Mary Linda Lacotte, Recording Secretary