

The Port Norris Historical Society

November 14 , 2023

Members Present: E. Bernhardt, R. Berry, V. Campbell, R. Cobb, G. Guidera, B. Hall, F. Hickman, H. Hickman, L. Hoffman, T. Hollinger, M. L. Lacotte, A. Lore, K. Lore, J. Lore, J. Massey, D. Pettit, S. Ricci, D. Smith, P. Smith.

Guest: Robin Quinn

The regular meeting of the Port Norris Historical Society was held on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, commencing at 7:06 p.m., in the Society's headquarters building, with President, Rachel Cobb, being in the chair and the Secretary present.

November Meeting: The October minutes and the November 2023 meeting agenda were emailed to active members on November 13, 2023.

Review of Minutes: A motion by Donna Pettit to approve the emailed minutes of the October 2023 meeting and second by Gloria Guidera was unanimously approved by members present.

Treasurer's Report: Dick Smith made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as emailed to Board of Trustees members on November 12, 2023. Eileen Bernhardt seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by Board of Trustees present. The report will be filed for audit by Treasurer, Joyce Massey.

Nominations of PNHS Officers: Joyce Massey, Nominations Chairperson, announced the following nominations for officers' positions to be elected in December 2023 for a two year term beginning January 1, 2024.

President: Rachel Cobb

Recording Secretary: Mary Linda Lacotte

Corresponding Secretary: Gloria Guidera

Trustees: Eileen Bernhardt
Virginia Campbell

Nominations for these positions will close one week before the December 12, 2023, meeting. As per the By-Laws amended in 2014, officers can be renominated with no term limit. Officers are elected every two years, alternating years with President and Secretarial positions, Vice-President and Treasurer the following year.

Building Insurance: The insurance agency requested dates of completion to update the policy. Rachel Cobb will follow up with the insurance agency. Dates determined for the updates:

Wiring – 2013, additional wiring done 2022, 2

Roof – 1983

Plumbing – 2019

Heating/Air conditioning -2013, additional units 2023

Wi-Fi: Rachel Cobb stated T-Mobile can locate the building now that the P.O. Box and the physical address are part of the mailing address. T-Mobile account will provide Wi-Fi accessible throughout the building at an estimated monthly cost of fifty (\$50.00) to sixty (\$60.00). Rachel asked for approval to set-up the T-Mobile account on the PNHS debit card. The purchase of a phone for the building will be put on hold until the Budget committee meets. Joyce Massey made a motion to set up a Wi-Fi account with T-Mobile using the PNHS debit card. Gloria Guidera seconded the motion and it passed with unanimous approval.

TV: Rachel Cobb recommended the purchase of a Smart TV or Roku Tv for the building. Rachel Cobb purchased a DVD adapter for \$18.00. The tv can be used for activities such as movie nights, presentations, etc. Black Friday sales will be advertised soon and the PNHS has an account with Best Buy. Best size for the building would be a 42" or 44" inch tv, with a ballpark price of around \$200.00. A motion was made by Joyce Massey and seconded by Virginia Campbell to purchase a 40" – 44" TV at a cost of approximately \$200.00 for the building. The motion was unanimously approved.

Committee Reports:

Correspondence: Gloria Guidera stated there was no new correspondence. She did send a second request to the lady who suggested a speaker for a future meeting.

Collections:

Robin Metzger Quinn donated several items including a framed photograph of her father, Harvey Metzger, in uniform in WWII. Also, his enlistment papers, copies of his discharge papers, letter from the President.. Articles of her father on the track team at the old PN High School. She also donated a booklet from the Senior Class of 1940 In addition, Robin Q. donated an oil painting which her Aunt Mary McDaniels painted in 1975. Mary McDaniels was a former Port Norris resident and teacher in the local school system.

Liz Hoffman donated an original copy of the poem written in tribute to Jimmy McConnell, after his tragic death on the night of his high school graduation. She also donated two (2) checkbooks from the United Methodist Women.

Joan Harper donated an oil painting done by her mother, Emily Riggan, a Legend.

Welcome Committee: Two new families have moved in, and the committee will try to set up a date to visit the town residents.

December meeting: Elections of Officers and Legends will be held during the business meeting in December. Following the brief meeting, there will be time for fellowship and refreshments to celebrate the holiday season. Musical selections by choir at John Maddox church was suggested, but not feasible on Tuesday evenings as it is the choir's rehearsal night. Belinda Hall was asked to check with her former church. Members were asked to bring snacks.

Decorating: Virginia Campbell and Rachel Cobb will meet one day and decorate the building for the holidays. Rachel will send out an email to set a date.

Mauricetown House Tour – the holiday tour is planned for Saturday, December 16th, from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00p.m., with the tour starting at the fire hall. Tickets and information are available on their website.

Membership: Virginia Campbell reported the PNHS has one additional new member, Tony Klok, bringing total to 74 members.

Legends: Mary Linda Lacotte announced Cindy Tawes declined the nomination of Living Legends for personal reasons. Liz Hoffman nominated Sharon Porter, a resident of Port Norris and an employee of the school system. The nomination of Leslie Godown by his daughter Mary Godown Lewis was received and read to members. Nomination forms for Edith Selby and Sharon Porter will be presented at the December meeting. Nominations were closed for the 2024 Legends with the following names announced as the nominees:

Living Legends: John “Bob” Bateman
Sharon Porter
Sam Ricci
Edith Selby

Legends of the 21st Century: Eric “Ricky” Bateman
Leslie S. Godown, Sr.
Sheppard Lewis Lore

Historic Legend: To be announced

Voting will be held by private ballot to select three (3) Living Legends, one (1) Deceased Legend during the December meeting. The Historical Legend will be selected by Dick Smith and the committee. The Legends committee will have a Zoom or email meeting in November, with date to be announced. The NJ Motorsports Park will not have their new menu price list until after the holidays.

Meetings with Committees: Rachel Cobb asked the By-Laws Committee to meet to review the by-laws for recommended amendments. She recommended the Finance Committee meet to discuss the budget and a new Five Year Master Plan.

Heating: Rachel Cobb recommended the heat should be maintained at a temperature of 55 degrees in colder weather to protect the archival items, the computer and other equipment in the building. This will increase the utilities consumption.

Appreciation Certificate: Dick Smith noted the sponsors are very grateful for the certificates received recognizing their donations for the Soup Dinner.

Projects: Rachel Cobb suggested work should continue on the “Timeline”, signage for the front of the building, and store style decals for the windows depicting local business images creating Main Street Port Norris from former days.

Monies donated in memory of Norman Cobb were allocated for a story board telling the history of the building .

150th Anniversary Celebration: Robin Berry, a member of the Recreation Committee, announced that Commercial Township will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2024. Preliminary plans include a dinner at the Mauricetown Fire Hall with the Port Norris Historical Society and the Mauricetown Historical Society to do presentations.

Winter Festival: Robin Berry state Commercial Township Recreation Committee is planning a “Winter Festival” on the Sunday after Thanksgiving, November 26, 2023, with lighting of the Crab Basket Christmas Tree, caroling hay ride and a holiday laser light show.

Crab Basket Painting: A crab basket was purchased to be painted for the Commercial Township crab basket tree, a fundraising event for the Recreation Committee. Robin Berry was reimbursed for the \$25.00 fee to purchase the basket. The basket is due to the building by November 24, 2023. Virginia Campbell has volunteered to help paint the basket representing the PNHS.

Announcement: Ronald Thomas, longtime resident of Port Norris, passed away on November 14, 2023. Liz Hoffman publicly thanked John and Faye Hickman for being Ronald’s caregivers.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Mary Linda Lacotte,
Recording Secretary