

## The Port Norris Historical Society

### General Meeting February 11, 2020

**Attending:** A. Baum, E. Bernhardt, L. Berry, W. Berry, J. Burt, V. Campbell, R. Cobb, F. Hickman, J. Hickman, L. Hoffman, D. Hollinger, M.L. Lacotte, J. Massey, M. Moore, L. Reeves, S. Ricci, A. Robbins, J. Robbins, D. Smith, P. Smith, R. Smith.

Rachel noted the passing of her aunt, Anna May (Cobb) Morgan.

Meeting was called to order by President, Rachel Cobb.

**Review of Meeting Minutes:** A correction to amend the Benefactor status to the Patron status as listed in the PNHS Dues Schedule as recorded in the minutes was discussed. A motion was made by John H., seconded by Eileen B., with a unanimous vote to approve the minutes as corrected.

**Treasurer's Report:** Faye H. distributed copies of the January 2020 monthly report. She reviewed both receipts and disbursements for the month of January. The report included a breakdown of donations (\$50.00) and membership (\$450.00), in addition to monies received for the March Soup Dinner sponsors and ticket sales. Regular monthly bills were paid.

**Donations: Monetary:** Both the Gordon Moore family and Sam Ricci included a donation with their membership dues.

**Donations:** Collections – Liz Hoffman donated a bulletin from Harry Newcomb's funeral service (November 9, 1995) and a Sailor Boy Oysters' apron from F.F. East. Joyce M. donated a wall thermometer.

**Correspondence:** Alvina read a note received from Alvin and Kathy Lore with their membership dues. Mary Linda L. reported she received an e-mail from a member who wished to send 2020 dues, but didn't have an official mailing address. In speaking with Rachel, Mary Linda informed the members she would begin to include both the mailing address as well as the email address of the historical society when sending the agenda to the general membership.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Membership:** Ginny C. reported there are 64 current members, which does not include members who joined and/or paid dues at the February meeting.

**Writing Committee** – Linda R. stated she will be coordinating with Eileen Bernhardt as a source for her story (biography) of the late Nelson W. Laning, former local funeral director. Present at Tuesday's meeting were Les Berry and his brother, Bill Berry, neighbors of Nelson Laning, who are additional valuable sources for Linda's story.

**Welcome Committee:** The members did not visit any new families this month. A family who recently moved into the community is on their list for next month.

**Collections – Pat:** Acquisitions – Donations received from Liz H. and Joyce M. will be added to the collections register. After the back room was painted, members met to clean the display cases and the items in these cabinets. Several items were moved to better utilize space in the cabinets.

**General Business:**

**Seed Swap Review** – February 8th: Rachel C. reported the Seed Swap was a success, with much positive feedback received. An estimated 50 people attended, attracting a diverse group of people. Donations and sale items raised \$48.00 for the PNHS. Leftover seeds were donated to the South Jersey Quail Project, which works with the local sand companies, replanting native wildflowers to encourage wildlife and to promote the increase in quail coveys. The consensus was to hold the event at the same time next year and possibly to make it an annual program.

**Race Through Time Meeting (March 11<sup>th</sup>, 10am)**- Rachel C. explained this program is sponsored by the Vineland Historical Society to raise awareness about Cumberland County's culturally diverse past. Fifteen historic sites in the county will participate by being open once each month between June 15<sup>th</sup> and August 15<sup>th</sup>. Visitors may register at any of the participating sites, where they will receive a brochure listing all the organizations and a small "passport." Visitors will get their passports stamped as proof of their visit to each location. Anyone who visits at least eight sites will be eligible to enter a drawing to win prizes. The \$25.00 registration fee for participation as a historical site has been paid. More information will be available after the March 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Soup Dinner** – Dick provided an update on the Soup Dinner preparation. He projected approximately 220 tickets or more will be sold. There are currently (9) sponsors who have committed their support and whose name are on the sponsor board. All sponsors receive a framed certificate, but suggestions are needed to present a small gift in addition to show appreciation. One thought was to frame photographs of early Port Norris life. Covia (formerly Unimin) will pick up the tab for any of their employees who sign-up for a dinner ticket prior to the day of the dinner. Dick gave a detailed account of all donated items by businesses in the area. Gail Penven and Faye H. purchased paper

supplies, etc. from BJ's and Tri-City, through a grant of \$250.00 from Gail's church. Duties of members helping at the dinner were announced, with time schedules for both Friday and Saturday discussed. Three young people will be assisting with bussing of tables.

**Building:** Dick S. stated the back room has been painted, with Sam R. and John L. helping to spackle and sand the walls. Everyone agreed the painting was a much-needed improvement to the building. Dick suggested using porch paint to cover the floor in the back room. Appreciation was expressed to all who helped. Mike Vizzard will soon be installing a new light on the PNHS building facing the parking lot on the Laws and Taylor property. In addition, Mike hung light fixtures upstairs. Dick noted the renovation of this building has been a culmination of seven years of projects, from removing lead paint to installing new windows, heater, and roof. All wiring is new, compliant with codes and cable ready. Ceiling downstairs was replaced, and walls were wall-papered.

**Exhibits:** Rachel presented the idea of compiling groups of photographs into a bound book as opposed to using binders to display for visitors to peruse. She circulated a sample bound book of photographs for members to view.

**Other Comments and Concerns:**

Library – Mary Linda L. provided information, based on her experiences with a rural Salem County library, regarding the US Federal Communications Commission's Communications Act (Title IV). In the past, Comcast negotiated with the Commission to provide free cable service connections, modems and modem services to schools and libraries in areas where Comcast provides services. Members discussed the future connection needs (Wi-Fi) of the library and research room in the building. It was suggested to explore this issue with township officials.

Food Service Certification – John and Faye H., Amy R. and Dick S. volunteered to be trained and certified in food service and food handlers in order to be compliant for our future dinners.

Rachel commented on the year's end newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned by Rachel Cobb, President.

Mary Linda Lacotte, Assistant Secretary

