

The Port Norris Historical Society

General Meeting

March 13, 2018

Attending: A. Baum, E. Bernhardt, R. Berry, V. Campbell, R. Cobb, F. Hickman, J. Hickman, Joanne Hickman, L. Hoffman, M.L. Lacotte, J. Massey, S. Ricci, D. Smith, P. Smith.

Meeting called to order by President, Rachel Cobb.

In commemoration of Women's History Month, Rachel invited members of the group to share personal stories to recognize the women in our lives. Alvina Baum spoke of three strong women in her family - Sophie Lake Martin, her great grandmother and her grandmother, Ella Adams. Her older sister, Mary Ella Morie, whom she described as a very strong woman, protected her sisters from adversity and crisis during their childhood. She had an inner strength and took on an adult responsibility, when their mother was not able. Ginny Campbell commented about the strength of Meghan Wren, who swam across the Bay, her involvement with the community and as a founder of the Bayshore projects. Dick Smith spoke of his mother, Jane Robbins Smith, as a member of the Rifle Team at Drexel University. She earned a ribbon for being an expert shooter, and winning the East Coast championship. Rachel Cobb presented stories about her grandmother, Beulah Cobb, and her involvement in family and community in Port Norris. She noted that her grandmother was one of the ladies pictured in the War Memorial Dedication photo. Pat Smith spoke of her sister, Vivienne Tripley, who became a recruiter for the Womens' Army Corp, traveling around the country recruiting women. Her sister was featured in a film clip

in the newsreels that were shown before a feature movie. Mary Linda Lacotte shared family photos and spoke about her grandmother, Maria Siciliano Dagastine, and her life as an immigrant coming to America and settling in Port Norris.

Review of Meeting Minutes: Misspellings - Bayshore is to be written as one word. Chili McConnell is with two (l's).

Clarification that fireworks stated are to be held at Bay Day in June. A motion to approve as amended was made by Joyce M., 2nd by Eileen B. All in favor – Approved as amended.

Treasurer's Report: Liz Hoffman, Treasurer, distributed copies of the February report and reviewed details. We received a cash donation of \$100.00 from Donna Bailey in memory of her brother. Liz stated the bank will not change from our existing account to the suggested business account. Our account number will remain the same.

Soup/Chili Dinner: This year we took in a total of \$5015.00, including 8 sponsors. Expenses paid out were \$200.55 to Faye Hickman for supplies, \$200.00 donation to the PN Fire Co., \$13.65 for postage and \$125.56 for pans. A profit of \$4471.66 was realized. Liz stated last year our profit was approximately \$3300.00 - \$3400.00. Dick reported The Unimin sponsorship came in after the dinner was held. Although it was too late to post on the sign, Rachel has added Unimin to the website. Thirty-three ticket holders did not show (some were sponsors). There were 57 take-outs sold. There being no questions or further comments regarding the report, a motion to approve by Dick S., 2nd by Robin B. All in favor - Approved.

Donations: No donations to report.

Correspondence: Alvina copied two pictures that were posted on the PNHS Facebook page. One was of the theater and the other was of the gas station.

Committee Reports:

Collections: Liz H. reported that Laura Spencer donated a copy of the book, Under Sail. Also, a 1772 Bible belonging to Ethalinda Blackman (which will be stored in the safe) and a watch given to Lucy Blackman when she retired. A paper with articles about Mauricetown and a bulletin written from Harry Newcomb's store were also presented.

Dick reported he has received a donation of an album from Stu Polhamus with original prints of all ships, mostly of those built in Leesburg. Dick S. and Rachel C. presented the original (unframed) pencil drawings of the polar bears by Chili McConnell. A brief biographical sketch and discussion was shared of local artist, Chili McConnell. Chili's brother was a survivor of a famous expedition in the Arctic; hence, the polar bear drawings. He was a classmate of Norman Rockwell and was married to Rachel Cobb's great-grandmother. One of his paintings is in the front of the Mauricetown Church. He also designed a cover for Sports Afield.

Membership: Ginny Campbell stated our current membership total for 2018 is 69 members. She suggested giving a honorary membership to Gail Penven. John Hickman made a motion to approve the membership, with 2nd by Eileen B and was unanimously approved.

Cookbook: Eilene B. and Robin B. stated that everything is on hold at this time.

Chamber of Commerce Meeting: Sam Ricci reported there was no meeting last month due to no consensus of the time of meeting. There will be a meeting next Tuesday. The Sportsman Show, which was held in Fortescue last year, is scheduled to be held on March 24th, 2018 at the Mauricetown Fire Hall. The Business Expo will be held at the Cumberland County Technical and the chamber may share a table with Millville. The Chamber of commerce is gaining more sponsors.

Welcome Committee: Pat reported the bags have been replenished with 2018 materials and includes our PNHS newsletter.

General Business:

Soup Dinner Review – Dick stated that Liz gave a comprehensive financial report of the dinner, with itemized details. Dick was appreciative for everyone that stayed to assist with the clean-up. To answer a question about the number of years the Soup dinner has been a fundraising project for the PNHS, a search through past records indicated this is the sixth year. Alvina questioned if this was the first time take-out ticket holders received three bowls of soup. Discussion followed, with suggestions to either continue using two bowls for take-outs, or use (3) 12 ounce bowls in place of the (2) 16 ounce bowls. It was noted that we ran out of take-out bowls this year. Pat S. and Alvina B. sent out thank-you cards to all who donated soup, desserts, sponsors and anyone who helped, etc. John H. suggested we purchase a used trailer to store all supplies therefore eliminating the time and manpower needed to move the supplies.

Watermens' Memorial Website: Rachel reported the names of the deceased watermen are on the website, with each name having a dedicated page with death certificates. Concerning the bell, we will have no legal obligations after the end of June; it will become part of the Bayshore collection. Any monies left over will go back to Bayshore to maintain the bell. Rachel suggested we continue to maintain the website (watermensmemorial.org); she will manage the site. A motion was made by Ginny C. with 2nd by Joyce M. and approved for the PNHS to absorb the annual fee of \$14.99 once the committee dissolves. Rachel C and Rachel D. will work together on stories and materials.

Watermen's Memorial Dedication – Rachel: During the morning of Bay Day, Saturday, June 2nd, the names of the deceased watermen will be read and the bell will be rung. Other Bay Day events will include the relaunching of the Meerwald with a sail scheduled. Fireworks will conclude the day's activities. March 23rd in the Township Conference Room, a signage will be held with all deceased over time that worked on the bay.

Bayshore Portrait Show – Rachel: The Bayshore Center is seeking portraits of people that are part of local history to be on loan to the Center and displayed from May through August. Ethelinda Blackman donated a portrait of Linda Lore Hand to the PNHS. Members felt this would be appropriate to loan to the Bayshore for their historical portrait show. Paperwork is due in by May 23rd.

2018 Legends Dinner – Liz, Joyce, Mary Linda: Date is set for Saturday, Nov, 3rd at the New Jersey Motorsports Park in the Officer's Club banquet room. A deposit of \$250.00 was sent to

reserve our Legend Dinner date. It was suggested that nominations for legends be accepted at the May meeting and voting take place at the June meeting. This will allow more time to contact families and receive responses.

Building – Dick: Electrical charges - Mike Vizzard charged \$300.00 less than his original quote. Also, he didn't charge for any extras (this would amount to approximately \$1400.00 in additional charges that we saved). Dick gave him cutting boards and mugs, plus he is now an Honorary member of the PNHS. Mike will come back to finish later when other work is completed.

Bathroom- Dick: Donald Franklin will be meeting with Dick in a couple of days to see what work has to be done to finish the bathroom.

Township Leaf Clean-up – Dick: We missed the opportunity as another group stepped up and volunteered to clean-up the yard at the Old Robbinstown School/Library.

Joanne Hickman announced that the Port Norris Fire Co, will be brooding oysters tomorrow evening beginning at 5 pm. They would be happy to have additional volunteers to assist with preparations.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Dick S., 2nd by Eileen B. to adjourn the meeting.

Mary Linda Lacotte, Assistant Secretary