

The Port Norris Historical Society

General Meeting March 10, 2020

Attending: A. Baum, V. Campbell, R. Cobb, F. Hickman, J. Hickman, L. Hoffman, M.L. Lacotte, J. Lacotte, J. Massey, M. Moore, S. Ricci, J. Robbins, D. Smith, P. Smith, R. Smith.

Women in History – Round Table: Members engaged in conversation that highlighted the contributions of several local, well-known women from the Port Norris area. Women mentioned were Martha Henderson - Postmaster in Bivalve; Vivian Morris – cashier at Newcomb’s market, baked the best pound cake and pumpkin pie, and donated a large display cabinet to the PNHS; Mildred Sheppard – owned the Sea Shell Restaurant; Clara Hayes – cleaned the Post Office and homes in the area, baked molasses cookies; Elenanor Robbins Hickman – gave piano lessons in her home; Elfreda Morgan - piano teacher who traveled to students’ homes; Belva Prcyl – local artist, currently living in New England.

Mariea M. shared a newspaper article from the past referencing “Party Club” licenses granted by Commercial Township. Just a Club (Berrytown) received a liquor license and the Toyettes Club received a club license. The \$150.00 license fee was paid to the township, \$25.00 for state fees.

Meeting was called to order by President, Rachel Cobb.

Review of Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Liz H., seconded by Joan R., with a unanimous vote to approve the minutes as emailed.

Treasurer’s Report: Faye H. distributed copies of the February 2020 monthly report. She reviewed both receipts and disbursements for the month of February. The report included a breakdown of receipts, membership, amazon prime. Disbursements included monthly utility bills, debit card purchases, website fees, for full website housing and three sites we host. Joan R. made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s report, Joyce M seconded, with unanimous vote to accept the Treasurer’s report.

Donations: Monetary: Two donations were received in February.

Donations: Collections – Rachel C. shared copies of “*The Weekly Aspiration*”, a typewritten hand produced newsletter of local happenings. She received these from Sharon Magee Eichel, of West Deptford, whose mother was Doris Gates and her father’s

uncle was John Magee. Rachel will make copies of the originals. Dot Cobb donated a copy of a 1876 recipe book from Beulah Cobb, along with a schooner post card.

Correspondence: Alvina read a note included with dues received from Barbara Scudder. Also, a card included with the donation received from Donna Bailey, in memory of her brother, Craig.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Ginny C. reported there are 68 current members. She expressed concern that we need to place the membership registration forms in a different location at the soup dinner in order to keep from blowing around and to provide better PR access to people. Joyce M. stated there is room at her table for the forms.

Writing Committee – In Linda’s absence, no report given.

Welcome Committee: The members have one family to visit in the near future.

Collections – Pat S. will contact the committee to schedule a meeting in March to begin working on documenting/ coordinating the collections.

General Business:

Race Through Time Meeting (March 11th, 10am)- Rachel C. informed members the Race Through Time event will be held during June, July, and August. We will coordinate with the Mauricetown Historical Society, which is open the first and third Sundays of each month from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm. The PNHS will decide on one of the two Sundays, making it more convenient logistically for participants to visit two locations on the same day. To ensure the safety of our members, it will be necessary for two members to be present at the building during the open house hours. More information will be available after the March 11th meeting.

Customer Appreciation Day – invite sponsors to visit the building, showing improvements and renovations to the building. Sponsors will also receive thank-you notes and a framed certificate of appreciation.

It was agreed to give an honorary membership to Gail Penven as a token of gratitude for obtaining the grant (from her church) which provides supplies for the dinner.

Building: Contents in two rooms upstairs have been sorted, organized and/or relocated in order to ready the rooms for painting.

Timeline Review: Rachel C. passed out copies of the time-line layout including photos and paragraphs for the wall. Suggestions for the timeline were the Great Schooner Race, People's Bank, Palomino and Sea Shell restaurants. Rachel asked for the names of famous people to be considered for the timeline. Items in the display cases will coordinate with the timeline.

Other comments and concerns:

Bayshore Exhibit – This year's theme is "From Head to Toe", featuring accessories such as lace, military pins, stockings, hats, etc. The items will be on display from August 14th through November 20th. Suggested items on loan from PNHS to be placed in the exhibit will be discussed at the April meeting so that the registration form may be completed.

The meeting was adjourned by Rachel Cobb, President.

Mary Linda Lacotte, Assistant Secretary