

The Port Norris Historical Society

March 8, 2022

Members Present: V. Campbell, R. Cobb, B. Hall, F. Hickman, L. Hoffman, J. Lacotte, M.L. Lacotte, J. Massey, M. Moore, S. Ricci, D. Smith, R. Smith.

The regular meeting of the Port Norris Historical Society was held on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at 7:05 PM, at the Society's building, with President, Rachel Cobb, being in the chair and the Secretary being present.

January Meeting: The February Secretary's minutes, the February Treasurer's report, and the meeting agenda for March were emailed to active members on March 7, 2022.

Review of Meeting Minutes: Joyce M. made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2022, meeting as emailed to active members. The motion was seconded by Ginny C. and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report for the month of February 2022 was submitted by Treasurer, Sam R. and emailed to active members.

Receipts in the amount of \$880.07 included a donation of \$500.00 from Commercial Township towards the rising cost of utilities, additional donations of \$245.00 and membership fees in the amount of \$135.00, including \$0.07 interest. Rachel C. credited Dick S. for making the initial contacts and delivering the letter of request to the township for the monetary donation.

Disbursements which totaled \$355.64, included utilities payments to Atlantic City Electric (\$74.37) and SJ Gas (\$281.27). A motion was made by Ginny C. and seconded by Liz H., with a unanimous vote taken to approve the February 2022 Treasurer's report.

Rachel C. noted charges for the three websites she manages will appear on next month's treasurer's report for reimbursement.

Donations: A donation of \$100.00 was received in memory of Norman Cobb. During the Seed Swap, a total of \$45.00 was collected in the donation box.

Speaker Options: Rachel C. suggested we invite Barney Hollinger, originally scheduled for an earlier meeting, to speak at our May meeting about life in Port Norris. Rachel Dolhanczyk, of Bayshore Center, would be scheduled to present their recently published book on the A.J. Meerwald at the June meeting.

Note of interest: Rachel announced the steeple for the United Methodist Church in Mauricetown will be tentatively delivered on March 12, 2022, and installed on March 14, 2022, weather permitting. A large fundraising campaign has been ongoing to replace the old steeple which was 150 years old and unrepairable.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: Ginny reported we have (55) members (40 paid members plus 15 honorary members).

Correspondence: In Gloria's absence due to illness, Rachel C. reported Gloria has been able to continue with correspondence.

Collections: In Pat Smith's absence, Rachel C. reported she and Pat S. met and went over the new collections we have received. Dick S. brought the 1945 oyster ground lease of Herman Berry, Sr. donated by Faye Hickman, his daughter. Ervin Hickman donated his father's 1915 French textbook from Port Norris High School. Rachel C. donated her father's boy scouts spats.

Furniture: Rachel C. purchased and donated a china cupboard and a two piece cabinet for displaying our holdings and sale items.

Welcome: Faye H. and Pat plan to go out next week to visit new families. Please notify Pat or Faye if members know of any new family/individual that has moved into town.

Building: Dick is checking on heat and water on frigid days, in addition to removing the iron residue in the bathroom fixtures. Plowman's quoted a price of \$855.00 per window for the installation of (4) new replacement windows in the upstairs library and storage room. This price includes a charge of \$75.00 per window for removal and disposal of lead paint. At this point three of the four windows have been donated. Rachel suggested we do a fundraising campaign for donations of the additional ten (10) windows upstairs. She has a promotion letter which will be available at the Legend's event as well as on the historical society website. Based on the increased cost of \$300.00 per window since the downstairs windows were replaced, we would have two families donate one window. There will be a plaque recognizing the families' donations. The donors will receive a document for tax purposes. The four windows will be purchased with donated funds, not using any historical society accounts. A motion was made by Ginny C. and seconded by Mariea M. to order four replacement windows from Plowman's once a monetary commitment has been received for the fourth window. Motion was approved by all present.

Rachel's Soap Box: Rachel thanked everyone for continuing to keep our organization active and moving forward. She noted the need for assistance in creating material for future issues of the society's newsletters. The stories and memories of the people who have lived in the community should be recorded and shared with others. Members will be asked to contribute a story or document a connection to Port Norris. Ginny C. thanked Rachel C. for all the work she has done to publish the past newsletters.

Legends Awards: Mary Linda L. stated she had received a request from Tam Williams, Charles Amos Camper (Mules's) daughter, to roll over her father's legend until next year due to a death in the family. Their entire family would travel from various states three times within three months for family functions, imposing hardships for some. Members agreed to acknowledge the request and allow the

roll over until 2023. Eighty-nine (89) invitations were mailed on March 5, 2022, to Legends guests and friends of the historical society. Active members received their invitations at the March meeting. Rachel posted a copy of the invitation on the website. The Legends committee met with Julie Scott at the Motorsports Park to discuss details, logistics, acoustics, etc. We will have use of the entire room this year, with only six (6) people seated at each table. Sam R. mailed a check in the amount of \$500.00 for a deposit based on seventy-five (75) people. The NJ state tax exempt ST-4 form was filed with the Motorsports Park for the current event.

Roseann S. and Mariea M. have volunteered to keep records of all RSVPs received. Ginny C. will chair the auction this year. Rachel and Ginny presented a new auction idea, with guests buying tickets to purchase our own sale items. A free ticket for the grand prize basket will be given to those guests purchasing tickets for the sale items. Price of tickets will be determined later. To keep the monetary impact at a minimum for our active members, it was suggested members contact local businesses to obtain gift cards, donations etc., for the basket. Members may donate items as well for our large basket drawing and bring all donations to the April meeting, allowing for time to organize items and create the basket.

Dick informed the members that Gail Penven had received another \$250.00 grant from Thrivent for purchases of needed items from local businesses. He will be in contact with Gail to arrange a date to shop. Ginny inventoried all sale items which are currently available. Rachel researched and discussed the cost of ordering mugs, hats, pens, coffee, tote, and insulated bags. Based on the increase cost of coffee, a decision was made not to purchase any coffee for resale at this time. Discussion followed, and a meeting of the committee will be held to determine the selection and number of items to be ordered for the Legends Awards and for future events.

Other Comments and concerns:

Mary Linda L. distributed the active member directory for review, corrections, edits, and additions. Revised copies will be available at the April meeting.

The passing of Cora Ann Cornish in January 2022 was noted. A brief discussion regarding the Cornish family followed.

Rachel C. mentioned she donated birdhouse gourds to the Cain children whose family had visited our Seed Swap in February.

Next meeting: April 12, 2022

Mary Linda Lacotte, Recording Secretary

