

# **The Port Norris Historical Society**

## **Monthly Meeting**

**March 9, 2026**

**Members Present:** E. Bernhardt, D. Berry, R. Berry, V. Campbell, R. Cobb, D. Cunninham, J. Donohue, J. Elwell, G. Guidera, F. Hickman, M.L. Lacotte, J. Lore, J. Maddox, A. Martinez, J. Massey, D. Pettit, P. Smith, R. Smith.

**Guests:** Ian Borgo, Nicole Harrigan

**March Meeting:** The regular meeting of the Port Norris Historical Society was held Tuesday, March 9, 2026, commencing at 6:35 p.m., with President, Rachel Cobb, being in the chair, and the Secretary being present.

**Review of Minutes:** The February 2026 minutes and the agenda for the March 2026 meeting were emailed to members on March 9, 2026. A motion to approve the February 2026 minutes was made by Joyce Massey, seconded by Gloria Guidera, and unanimously approved by members present.

**Treasurer's Report:** The February 2026 Treasurer's report was emailed to the PNHS board members on March 6, 2026. A motion was made by Gloria Guidera, seconded by Pat Smith and approved by board members present, constituting a quorum of officers and trustees. The report will be filed for audit.

**Monetary Donations:** Faye Hickman, Treasurer, reported the receipt of \$450.00 from the Dividing Creek Historical Society. Gloria Guidera read a letter from the D. C. Historical Society stating the organization voluntarily dissolved recently and distributed their remaining treasury funds to organizations with ongoing connections to historical preservation, education, etc.

Faye H. also noted thirty-five (\$35.00) in donations was collected on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, during the Museum open day.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Membership:** Virginia Campbell, chairperson, reported total membership for 2026 is fifty-six (56) members. Faye Hickman asked members to consider a one-year complimentary membership to Reenie Rhubart as a thank you for her assistance with our soup dinner. A motion was made by Gloria Guidera, seconded by Robin Berry, and unanimously approved to present R. Rhubart with a one-year complimentary membership.

### **Correspondence:**

Gloria Guidera asked if Rachel Cobb had sent a thank-you letter to the Dividing Creek Historical Society, offering them a one-year complimentary membership in appreciation for their generous donation.

**Collections:** Dan Garrison donated a fog horn, a metal hand truck, and long handled tools from his grandfather's boat. A shift gear for an outboard motor was also donated but returned to him as the PNHS was unable to use it for their displays.

Dean Berry donated a DuBois & Sons "Jersey Brand Oysters" sign. It was stated the DuBois building caught fire in 1971.

Donations from Amanda Douglas included a Port Norris High School class reunion scrapbook, a writing by Louise Mints, an E.L. Warren key chain, and a small calendar with the name of John Gale.

#### **President's Report:**

Window Decals – Rachel Cobb shared the decal she ordered (\$30.00) for the front window of the building. If the decal works, she will design and order one for the second window. The application to the windows will have to wait until the temperature has become warmer. The decals have a shelf life of two years.

Outside faucet – Dan Garrison has a contact person to install a faucet on the outside of the building.

Museum Open Day – Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, was open to the public for visits. It was scheduled to coordinate with the Mauricetown Antiques Show. It was well attended by those who were at the antiques show and others who saw the post on social media. Merchandise sales of \$82.00 plus the reported \$35.00 in donations were realized. A suggestion was made to have name badges for volunteers to wear during public events, identifying members of the historical society.

#### **Public Visitors Hours -**

Permanently scheduled hours for public visits were discussed, coordinating with the Mauricetown Historical Society (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays from 1:00pm to 4:00pm) and the Bayshore Discovery Center (Wednesday through Fridays). Rachel C. asked members to bring calendars to the April meeting to plan for signing up for open visiting hours. Consensus was to be open on one Wednesday and one of the Sundays. Tentatively Sunday afternoon, April 26<sup>th</sup> from 11:00am – 3:00pm was selected to be an open day, with Judy Donohue and Virginia Campbell serving as volunteers at the building.

**Building Name Sign** Name on Building – Rachel is in contact with Patrick O'Brien.

**Ring Camera and Smoke Detectors** in Building – These will be installed later.

#### **Legends 2026:**

Mary Linda Lacotte stated invitations were mailed to all Legends guests, members and friends. Approximately one hundred twenty-five (125) invitations were mailed or distributed. Thrivent gift card donated by Gayle Penven will be used to purchase items for the charity drawing baskets. Members will be asked to contribute any items needed to fill the themed baskets. Virginia Campbell and Faye Hickman will meet with Gayle to make the purchases. Tulips for the table centerpieces will be ordered from Van Dyk's in Millville.

**Fundraising:** Rachel Cobb suggested holding a community yard sale in late August, renting out space to community members for a fee. Judy Donohue, chairperson, will contact Commercial Township municipal offices regarding yard sale permits and ordinances.

**Road Clean-Up Days:** Pat Smith reminded the members of the road clean-up days to be scheduled for spring.

**Comments/Suggestions/Announcements:**

**Oyster and Ham dinner** - Volunteers are needed to help bread oysters at the PN Fire Hall on Wednesdays in March beginning at 5:00 pm. Pizza is provided to volunteers after oysters are breaded. The dinner is scheduled for Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Recreation Commission** – Robin Berry announced the Veterans Park Committee is sponsoring a dinner dance on March 21<sup>st</sup> at the Mauricetown Fire Hall from 5:00pm to 10:00pm. Tickets are available from committee members.

Gloria Guidera motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Eileen Bernhardt. Rachel Cobb adjourned the meeting at 7:38 pm.

The next meeting of the PNHS will be held on April 14, 2026, at 6:30p.m.

Mary Linda Lacotte,  
Recording Secretary