

The Port Norris Historical Society

General Meeting

May 8, 2018

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

Meeting called to order by President, Rachel Cobb.

Historic Show and Tell – With the dedication on June 2nd of the Watermen’s Memorial, Rachel C. felt it fitting to share local stories of the watermen and the area. Joe L. shared a recommendation written by Dr. Bradford on his official paper, detailing a proper diet. Faye Hickman told of how her family and John Bradway’s family would spend their vacation traveling down to Maryland and Virginia each year to hire a crew for their fathers’ oyster boats for the upcoming oyster season. She remembers her father and John B. going out on a boat that broke down and was out on the water until very late. Rachel reflected on bringing her relative down to the building and how she remembered as a child seeing her father working at his blacksmith’s shop. Alvina B. related that when her father shucked / cleaned the oysters, he would save the little raw oyster crabs for their family to eat. Ginny Campbell shared a large cloth embroidered with many signatures which had been inscribed by local people from the Port Norris area. Dates written seem to be mostly in the 1940’s and 50’s. This was found in her house and belonged to Myrtie Campbell.

Rachel C. explained that every person on the watermen’s website has a page; some with stories, some with only a few lines. She

stated there are 100 names on the list of people who have lost their lives while working at sea. Rachel shared a poem by Margaret Elsh, of Pennsgrove, written in 1928 to honor a waterman from Camden (not on our list). The earliest name dates back to 1714 to present with Josh Catlett being the latest name to be added.

Some members are having trouble opening or downloading the meeting's agenda. Rachel will enlarge the font, send the document to me and then we will try sending the agenda.

Review of Meeting Minutes: Rachel C. clarified the appointment of John Hickman as a trustee to fill the vacancy of Joanne Hickman, who was not able to continue as a member of the Board of Trustees. According to the By-Laws, although Joanne's position was one of an elected trustee, the Board was able to appoint someone to fulfill the remaining days of her year. At the end of the year, nominations for this position will be accepted and voted upon. Tom and Annette's residence should be corrected to read Washington, D.C. and not the state of Washington. A motion to approve minutes as amended was made by Alvina B., seconded by Ginny C.; minutes approved as amended.

Treasurer's Report: Liz Hoffman, Treasurer, distributed copies of the February report and reviewed details. Liz stated that we have not yet received the \$15.00 refund from TD bank which was incorrectly deducted from our account last month. She was assured the credit will appear on this month's statement. Motion to approve the treasurer's report made by Dick S., seconded by Joyce M.; approved unanimously.

Two cards were signed by members: (1) Walt Rudolph's 101st birthday; (2) Laura Johnson - worked on the project as well as a member of the Watermen's Memorial committee who is seriously ill. Dick reported that Walt Rudolph was in the hospital but is on the mend.

Donations: We received no donations by mail. Joyce Massey donated the paint that was purchased for the bathroom and the backroom walls. Joe and Mary Linda L. donated the framed document by Dr. Bradford.

Rachel's sister is selling the cutting boards, made by Dick Smith's brother, at her shop.

Correspondence: Alvina received a letter from the Commercial Township School announcing the Port Norris 8th Grade Graduation will be held on June 20th. As in past years, a student who is selected by one of the teachers, will receive a cash award of \$50.00 in addition to one of our scrap books. We need a person to go in Liz's place. A motion to continue with the award was made by Dick S. and seconded by Liz H. Motion was unanimously approved. Alvina noted that Noah Doyle, a former award recipient, just graduated from Cumberland County College with a 3.9 GPA.

Committee Reports:

Collections: None to report.

Membership: Ginny Campbell stated our current membership total for 2018 is 75 members.

Cookbook: The recipes are back on Rachel's computer.

Chamber of Commerce Meeting: Meghan W. was sending proposals to sponsors for fireworks for Bay Day, June 2nd. The Chamber members approved the 501C-3 form. Samples of sign proposals were presented for the signs to be erected by on North Avenue near the bypass.

Welcome Committee: Pat S. and Faye H. went out and gave (3) bags to local residents that have recently moved into the area

2018 Legends Dinner – Liz, Joyce, Mary Linda: Nothing to report.

General Business:

Nominations for Legends - Rachel

Living Legends :

Sally Dickenson – she retired as a Secretary for Commercial Township Schools and is a member of St. Anthony’s R.C. Church.

Past Legends :

Jack Carney – He owned a salt hay business and served as a member of the Cemetery Board.

Jim Garrison – He was co-owner of Port Norris Express trucking company. Dick will provide a more biographical information next meeting.

Joe Dagastine – A local farmer, he was elected to the Commercial Township Committee, including a term as mayor. Joe was on the Commercial Township Board of Education and served as President during one of his terms.

Additional nominations from last year will be included. A discussion ensued with concerns about the need to nominate local

residents of diverse ethnic backgrounds. The Cornish family, John and Lydia Cornish and their children, were part of the discussion.

Watermen's Memorial Update – Dedication Details - Rachel C.

On June 2nd the Bell Dedication program will begin at 11:00 a.m. Rachel D. is preparing the 100 names and organizing the reading of the names. Family members of some of the watermen have been called. If someone would like to read their family member's name and ring the bell, they should be at the dedication by 10:30 a.m. With over 100 names, it was decided to read a few names and then ring the bell, in order to keep the program flowing within the hour time frame. Rachel C. is in charge of food and will order breakfast type finger foods, which the Watermen's Memorial committee will provide payment. There are several activities/anniversaries included in the day-long celebration. East Point Lighthouse will be open for the day. The Meerwald, celebrating it's 90th year on the bay, will relaunch and sail in the afternoon. It has been 30 years since the Bayshore project began. In addition, Mauricetown Historical Society is having a Founder's Day program at 10:00a.m.

Bayshore 2nd Friday – June 8th, will feature a historical portrait show. The Lore family portrait that was donated by the Blackmans to the PNHS will be on display with the other portraits until August 26th.

File cabinet update – Rachel C. asked that we make a decision, either to keep or decline the offer of the 2 large fireblock cabinets owned by the Bayshore. Discussion concerning the weight of the cabinets on the wooden floors would require additional braces to support them, as they are over 200 pounds. Also, the file cabinets

are quite large and we don't have the space downstairs for them. John Hickman made a motion to pass on the donation. Eileen Bernhardt seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously. Rachel will contact the Bayshore group concerning our decision.

Building – Dick reported the two back rooms have been painted. Everything is ready except the floor for the toilet fixtures. There was discussion about the cost of a well. A question/discussion also arose concerning completing the electrical work while the ceiling is open and exposed. It was decided that it would be more cost effective to finish the work now. A motion was made by Ginny C, and seconded by Eileen B, to finish the electrical work at this time. Motion was approved by all. Dick will get an estimate from Mike V. for completing the electrical wiring/work.

Other Comments/Concerns: Rachel C.

In late September, at the Greenwich Artist Day, the Mauricetown Historical Society has a table with information, pamphlets., etc. They would like us to share the time with them. We could sell our items as well as distribute our historical society information.

Mauricetown is now designated as a historic district.

Reminder – There is no meeting in July. We do meet in August for a picnic.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Dick S. and seconded by Joyce M. to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned by Rachel C.

Mary Linda Lacotte, Assistant Secretary

