

# The Port Norris Historical Society

## Monthly Meeting

June 11, 2024

**Members Present:** E. Bernhardt, D. Berry, R. Cobb, J. Donohue, J. Elwell, F. Hickman, J. Hickman, G. Guidera, L. Hoffman, M. L. Lacotte, J. Maddox, J. Massey, D. Pettit, S. Ricci, P. Smith, R. Smith.

Guests: R. Quinn

The regular meeting of the Port Norris Historical Society was held on Tuesday, June 11, 2024, commencing at 6:33 p.m., with President, Rachel Cobb, being in the chair, and the Secretary present.

Pat Smith reported that Dick Smith had a successful surgery. He was scheduled for a second surgery on Wednesday morning, hopefully coming home that same day.

**June Meeting:** The May 2024 minutes and the June 2024 meeting agenda were emailed to active members on June 10, 2024.

**Review of Minutes:** Gloria Guidera motioned to approve the emailed minutes of the May 2024 meeting, seconded by Donna Pettit, and unanimously approved by members present.

**Treasurer's Report:** The May 2024 Treasurer's report was emailed to the PNHS Board members on June 7, 2024. Treasurer, Joyce Massey, presented a final summary report of 2024 Legends Awards. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by John Hickman and seconded by Sam Ricci. Board members present unanimously approved the motion.

**Correspondence:** Gloria Guidera read a thank you note from Sharon Porter.

Rachel Cobb apologized to John Hickman for not recognizing him as one of the Legends present at the Legends Dinner.

**Collections:** Pat Smith stated an antique horse shoe used on the salt hay meadows is on loan to the historical society by Dean Berry. Rachel Cobb noted Liz Hoffman donated a collection of old newspapers. These newspapers will not become part of the official collections. Judith Donohue volunteered to read through the newspapers to determine any articles, obituaries, ads relating to Port Norris and its townspeople. Newspapers not applicable would be passed onto others.

**Membership:** Virginia Campbell is away, no report.

**Commercial Township Eighth Grade Graduation:** Rachel Cobb and Joyce Massey will present the Port Norris Historical Society Alvina Baum award to a graduating eighth grade male and female student at the graduation program on Thursday, June 13, 2024. This year's recipients, Ian Whitaker and Jeanette Esquin, will each receive a \$50.00 cash award, a certificate, and one of the historical society books.

**Barney Hollinger:** Rachel C.. The historical society donated \$100.00 to the Port Norris Fire Department.

It was suggested to create a bereavement policy, establishing protocol for the amount of money donated in memory of a historical society member who has passed away. Recommendations for guidelines will be discussed at a follow-up meeting.

**Building:** In Dick's absence, Rachel reported that Dick Smith received a phone call from Steve Fleetwood, affiliated with Bivalve Packing Co., stating the Shell Pile School was being torn down and he was giving Dick permission to take anything he wanted from the building. Dick noted there was nothing left except for some photographs.

Rachel Cobb asked for possible contacts who may be interested in mowing the grass outside behind the building. Those members who had been volunteering are no longer able to take on the task.

**Combined Picnic:** Judy Moore, President of the Mauricetown Historical Society, announced the Combined picnic will be held on Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup> from 2:00p.m. to 5:00p.m. at the Mauricetown historical society building and its grounds. Our members will be responsible for providing the main dishes/meats, rolls, paper products, tablecloths, utensils, etc. The Mauricetown members will provide the side dishes, desserts, and beverages. Canopies and chairs may be needed. The Port Norris members agreed to plan activities which would create conversations between the two groups. Suggestions were corn hole, ice braker games, with prizes being awarded to the winning teams. Sentiment was our two groups represent Commercial Township and we should partner and support each other in our endeavors.

It was announced the Mauricetown Historical Society is hosting a 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in October. Further information will be available at our next meeting.

**Soup Dinner:** Faye Hickman provided a detailed report of the upcoming Soup Dinner fundraiser, prepared by Dick Smith.

Date: Saturday, September 21, 2024, at the Port Norris Fire Hall.

Time: 4:00p.m. – 6:00p.m. Take-outs available at same time

Cost: \$15.00 per person, cash, no PayPal sales

Assignments: Desserts - RoseAnn Smith  
Supplies - Pat Smith, Faye Hickman, Gayle Penven  
Dishes – Sam Gross  
Sponsors and buckets – Dick Smith

Clams for Chowder – Joe Lacotte  
Signs – Virginia Campbell

Soup Contributors: Oyster Stew/Clam chowder – made day of dinner at fire hall  
Crab - Dick Smith  
Tomato Florentine – Pat Smith and Faye Hickman  
Italian wedding - Gloria Guidera and Joyce Massey  
Chicken Corn Chowder – Betty Ricci and Joyce Massey  
Chili – Bob Smith  
Vegetable Beef - Liz Hoffman and Eileen Bernhardt  
Lima bean – RoseAnn Smith and Robin Berry  
Asparagus Ravioli – Mary Linda Lacotte  
Chicken Tortellini – Anna DeFabrites and Marie G.  
Shrimp bisque - ?

Other Food Items: Salad – Rachel Cobb and Virginia Campbell  
Cornbread – Helga Ricci  
Hot Anti-pasta – Mariea Moore

There will be a separate meeting specific to the soup dinner and finalized details at a later date. Tickets will be distributed to members at the July business meeting. Set-up will be around 10:00a.m. on the day of the dinner. Dick S. has arranged for tables to be set-up and taken down.

Dean Berry stated the PN Fire Department appreciates the annual donation for the use of the building; however, they do not wish a donation this year. It was discussed and agreed to purchase a new coffee urn for the fire hall.

Rachel Cobb stressed the importance of members' commitment to work as this is the biggest fundraiser. Our security and utility bills have increased. A suggestion to establish a fundraising committee to assist with ideas for next year will be discussed in the months to come.

**Legends Awards Luncheon:** Mary Linda Lacotte stated she has contacted the NJ Motorsports Park and is awaiting official confirmation of the tentative date of Saturday, April 5, 2025.

**Activity:** Rachel Cobb prepared a video presentation as a tribute to Legend, Barney Hollinger. Historical society members were given a preview of the video, which will be added to Barney Hollinger's page after his family has taken the opportunity to view it.

**Timeline:** Rachel Cobb presented a new idea for our timeline display. The host server used by the historical society now offers a site builder with blog. Our new site will be titled [PortNorristimeline.org](http://PortNorristimeline.org) for a cost of \$12.99. People visiting the building can use a computer, I-pad or tablet to search for information on the site. They could view it as a

blog, make comments and post a picture. The site can be used as a template and can be customized.

This site does not replace our own website but is available in addition to the website. Current happenings can be posted as well, with members making notes of contemporary events. An email can be created just for documenting events and happenings. Another way to approach this would be to make one page for each century listing topics. Viewers can click on to the blog or possible time slots. Links can be made available back to the historical society's pages.

Our goal is to have the timeline up and running for next year, hopefully early spring so the building may be open to the public once or twice a month, in coordination with the Mauricetown Historical Society and the Bayshore hours.

A historical map of Port Norris in the Steward's Cumberland County Atlas, 1876 was projected onto the tv screen for members to view. Names of residents as well as businesses were visible, providing discussion among members.

Rachel C. made available garden seeds for the members taking.

Tentatively, there is no business meeting scheduled for the month of August.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Mary Linda Lacotte,  
Recording Secretary