

The Port Norris Historical Society

Meeting: June 15, 2021

Members Participating: E. Bernhardt, R. Berry, V. Campbell, R. Cobb, G. Guidera, F. Hickman, J. Hickman, L. Hoffman, M.L. Lacotte, J. Lacotte, A. Lore, K. Lore, J. Massey, S. Ricci, D. Smith, P. Smith.

May Meeting: The June agenda, May Secretary's minutes, and May Treasurer's report were emailed to active members on June 13th, 2021.

Review of Meeting Minutes: Corrections: The Historical Society Scholarship was named for Dave and Joan Robbins for the current year only. Joyce M. made a motion to approve the corrected minutes of the June 15, 2021, in-person meeting, with a second by Joe L. The minutes were approved as amended by the unanimous vote of members present.

Treasurer's Report: Financial reports available upon request.

Donations: No monetary donations were received during the month of May.

Correspondence: None reported; See end of minutes for email correspondence.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Ginny C. reported we have 73 members to date (57 members, 16 honorary), and noted we are receiving more members paying dues as benefactors.

Welcome Committee: Faye and Pat S. had one new person, increasing total to (7) bags distributed. The suggestion of planning an outside ice cream party to welcome the community, inviting general members, local neighborhood residents, and new families was discussed. This would be a 2022 spring or summer event.

Collections: Pat S. noted she needs signatures for items in our collection. Rachel stated Mary Lynn Coleman, the relative of the White family who, as executor, donated the Betty Jane Peterson White paintings to us, would like to do a virtual visit of our building to see the paintings in their new “home”. Rachel Robbins Mertz is planning a visit to the building on July 16th to see the Peterson family schooner paintings. A couple of volunteers will be needed to hang the painting before the visits.

General Business:

Scholarship for 8th Grade – Rachel C. and Joyce M. attended the Commercial Township Schools 8th Grade graduation, which was held indoors on June 10th. Macey Williams and Brian Platt, this year’s recipients, were each presented with \$50.00 cash scholarship awards and a historical society booklet. This year’s scholarships in memory of Joan and David Robbins.

Speaker – At the November meeting, Rachel would like to invite local resident, O’Connell Brown, to be our guest speaker at a casual informal round table. Dick S. will contact O’Connell to invite him.

Building: De-Humidifier: Still working on this purchase. Materials and supplies have been purchased for building updates to begin in late summer/early fall. Space is needed to sort, organize, and place items we receive for our collections. Priority will be preparing a storage room/office area.

Soup Dinner: Dick S. confirmed the date of Saturday, September 11, 2021, as the date for our Soup Dinner. Actual serving time will be a two hour window. There will be no on-line selling of tickets, strictly in person sales. Rachel presented a sample of the tickets to the meeting. Once edited, Faye H. has volunteered to print the tickets. Two tickets per sheet, with two stubs per ticket, one for the purchaser and one for the seller. With each ticket sale, order information must be completed on each half of the ticket stubs. It was decided to place a purchase limit of two quarts of each soup

per person. A cut-off date deadline will need to be established in order to allow ample time to purchase supplies and food items needed to make the soups. Liz H. will be the contact person for tallying the ticket sales. This will require keeping Liz updated with sales via email or phone calls. Joe L. will write a disclaimer for reheating procedures of soups as all soups will be sold cold.

Legends Awards: Nominations will open and be presented in June, with voting at the September meeting.

Annual Picnic: The picnic will be held at the home of Mary Linda and Joe on Saturday, August 28th, with a rain date of Saturday, September 4th. Additional information will be forthcoming at the July meeting.

Other Business/ Comments/ Suggestions:

Emails: Rachel C. received an email from Donald (Duck) Taylor. She also received an email from Christine Esposito, a great-granddaughter of Mary Danna. She has a photograph of her family and her great-grandmother to share. A brief discussion followed to explore her family connections and where the Danna family lived in Port Norris.

Officer position opening: Alvina B. is resigning as Corresponding Secretary. Rachel may appoint someone to fulfill the term until the next election of officers for 2022. Gloria G. volunteered to take the position. A motion was made by Dick S. to appoint Gloria Guidera to fill the unexpired term of Corresponding Secretary, with a second by E. Bernhardt. Unanimous vote was carried.

Environmental Commission Service Project: Pat S. reported the water of up to 60 wells in the township will be tested for iron, manganese, and lead, through a grant with the NJ Department of Health. Participants will receive a collection container with instructions on how to take a sample. Residents are responsible to take the collected samples to the Commercial Township Municipal Building where they will be sent to a private lab for testing. Results will be returned to the residents with the status of their water

supply. No definite date has been determined and there is no obligation to participate.

Commercial Township Community Day: Marie Gallo, Chairperson of the Recreation Commission, has announced a Community Day and Car Show will be held on the first Saturday in October. Cars will be parked at the municipal hall. Local organizations and vendors in the community may participate.

PNHS Meeting: The next meeting will be held in person at the headquarters building on Tuesday, September 14th, at 7:00pm.

Mary Linda Lacotte, Assistant Secretary