

The Port Norris Historical Society

August 9, 2022

Members Present: E. Bernhardt, G. Campbell, R. Cobb, G. Guidera, Liz Hoffman, J. Lacotte, M.L. Lacotte, A. Lore, J. Massey, S. Ricci.

The regular meeting of the Port Norris Historical Society was held on Tuesday, August 9, 2022, at 7:08 PM, at the Society's building, with President, Rachel Cobb, being in the chair and the Secretary was present.

August Meeting: The June minutes, the June Treasurer's report, the meeting agenda for August and the proposed Visitor's Guidelines were emailed to active members on August 7, 2022.

Review of Meeting Minutes: Joyce M. made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2022, meeting as emailed to active members. The motion was seconded by Gloria G. and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Full report available upon request.

Sam R. stated the balance for June included monies from the Ethalinda Blackman reserve. A motion was made by Gloria G. and seconded by Eileen B., with a unanimous vote taken to approve the June 2022 Treasurer's report. The report will be filed for audit.

Ethalinda Blackman's Gift: The financial committee will be exploring how to best invest the additional money. Rachel C. suggested a portion of the money gifted to the historical society be used to purchase heating and air conditioning for the upstairs rooms. In addition, a mini-split unit for the downstairs may be considered. Throughout these hot summer months, Dick has been coming to the building everyday to turn on the air conditioning units. He will contact two businesses for estimates to present at the next meeting. This purchase would be a tribute to Ethalinda Blackman, who gave the first \$1,000.00 for the roof campaign. To honor Ethalinda, she will be nominated as a legend.

Honor Roll Criteria: Rachel C. thanked Ginny C. and Gloria G. for assisting with the final wording of the Port Norris Historical Society Honor Roll criteria as follows:

“The Port Norris Historical Society (PNHS) is dedicated to preserving the history of our unique village and the memory of those deceased individuals selected for our Honor Roll. Those persons chosen will have served as an Officer or Trustee of the PNHS Board of Directors for a minimum of ten years, embraced the Mission Statement of the PNHS and demonstrated respect for all individuals, regardless of their affiliation with the PNHS. All persons nominated to the Honor Roll must receive a unanimous vote from the current PNHS Board of Directors, which shall also have the

authority to override the above criteria, provided it is a unified decision.”

Liz H. made a motion to adopt the Honor Roll Criteria, as presented at the meeting, and include as part of the By-Laws. Sam R. seconded the motion. Voting in abstention were John and Faye Hickman, Dick and Pat Smith. Members present unanimously approved the motion. If an amendment must be added, this can be addressed later.

Visitor’s Guideline: Rachel explained that a visit by two photographers established the need to develop a Visitor’s Guidelines. Discussions followed with edits and review of the topics listed in the guidelines. Once adopted, changes to these guidelines can be made if necessary. Ginny C. and Gloria G. will pursue the purchase of a first aid kit for the building. Gloria G. made a motion to adopt the Visitor’s guidelines, as revised at the August 2022 meeting. Joyce M. seconded the motion with a unanimous vote for adoption. See attached for revised document.

Summer Meetings: Rachel presented an option for the summer meeting months, by changing the schedule to hold a monthly meeting in July and eliminate the August meeting. The annual picnic, held in August will provide the opportunity for members to gather in a social setting. No formal action was taken.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: Ginny C. reported we have 65 members, with no new memberships this month.

Correspondence: Gloria G. read notes from: the Seabrook Education and Cultural Center acknowledging our \$25.00 donation; a note of thanks from Alvina Baum’s daughter, Robin and family; a note from Donna Baum; and Donna Bailey’s note, included with the \$500.00 donation in memory of her Aunt Alvina and Aunt Alma.

Welcome: Faye and Pat visited four new families who have moved into the area, distributing our welcome bags.

Collections: In Pat Smith's absence, Rachel reported we received black and white photographs from Belva Prycl, who also donated a wooden model of a schooner with a plaque in honor of her father/grandfather. Mary Day Blackman sent a doll (head is from mid-1800's) which she and her sister Ethalinda found in a barn in Greenwich. Dick S. donated a rare Joseph Shropshire, Haleyville NJ, Milk Bottle.

Rachel noted the background history of the man who bought the former Port Norris bank and is selling it. Years ago, he had purchased a camera (c1820-1920) in its original case, with tripod, studio lights once owned by Samuel Cobb. He had also purchased prints and about 600 glass negatives from the Friswell family. Rachel C. has purchased her uncle Sam's camera, in addition to the collection of prints and glass negatives. She is donating the camera (costing \$1,000.00) to the Port Norris Historical Society.

Building:

Window Campaign: Rachel (Robbins) and Ched Mertz have purchased a window, leaving only two windows to sell.

Library Shelving: We are getting shelving units from the Commercial Township school library. Once the school custodian dismantles the shelving, units will be moved and reassembled for upstairs rooms. The library card catalog has been donated also. Furniture has been moved upstairs. Ginny C. donated a rug for upstairs.

Wi-Fi: we are wired for Wi-Fi, but our address is not accessible in Xfinity's directory. We also need to acquire a modem. QR codes may be used in the future to access our collections.

Legends Awards 2022/2023 – Mary Linda L. announced that all Saturdays in April are open at the NJ Motorsports Park for the Legends 2023 awards. Consensus among members was to book April 22, 2022. This date does not interfere with the community day yard sale, which is scheduled for the last Saturday in April (29th).

Legends Nominations – Nominations will be open from September 1,

2022, to October 1, 2022. At the October meeting, nominations will be publicly presented, with secret ballot voting held at the November meeting. Announcement letters will be mailed to a family member of each honoree during November. There are two rollovers from the 2022 Past Legends, Charles Amos Camper and Joseph Dagastine, who will be part of the 2023 ceremony.

Legends 2022 Finances - Red tickets (donated baskets)-\$526.00 Sale (historical society) items-\$253.00, (1) new member. We realized approximately \$1144.00 in profit, which helped to offset cost of the new sale items purchased. The additional \$500.00 we received from Donna Bailey was used toward purchases for the luncheon.

August Picnic – The picnic will be held at Joe and Mary Linda L.’s home on Saturday, August 27th at 4:00pm. Food item list is complete. Pictures of the donated schooner flags will be taken by Rachel C. at the picnic.

Community Day – Event has been scheduled for Saturday, October 1, 2022. Members felt it would be beneficial for the historical society to have an information table and sell society’s items.

Scarecrows – It was decided to skip making scarecrows this year. Rachel C. will email Cindy Tawles to inform her of our decision.

Soup Sale – Dick S. has announced there will be no soup sale fundraiser this year.

Transom – Rachel C. is working on designs for the stained glass transom over the front door. A picture of the schooner, Mary Ella, is one possibility. Rachel is researching designs for the other part of the transom.

Comments, Suggestions, Concerns:

Next meeting: September 13, 2022

Meeting adjourned 8:30 pm

Mary Linda Lacotte, Recording Secretary

<http://historicportnorris.org/visitor-guidelines.htm>

Visitor Guidelines

The Port Norris Historical Society is dedicated to preserving the history of our unique village, located in Commercial Township in Cumberland County, NJ.

We appreciate your continued support.

Visiting the Port Norris Historical Society Museum

Admission/Tours

Currently we are not open for regular hours. If you would like to visit please make an appointment. Or join us at one of our meetings or special events. Meetings are every second Tuesday at 7pm, except July.

Admission is free. Donations are always welcomed.

Food/Beverages

Visitors are not permitted to bring food or beverages into the building.

Attire

Shirt and shoes required.

Personal Items

Large bags or backpacks are not permitted. Other items, i.e. handbags, etc. may be subject to inspection.

Smoking

Smoking, including the use of e-cigarettes, is not permitted anywhere in the Museum including outside near the Museum entrance.

Accessibility

At the Port Norris Historical Society Museum, we want all of our visitors to feel welcome.

Parking

Parking is available near the building. Parking is free. We share a driveway and parking with neighboring buildings.

Restroom

Our restroom is ADA compliant.

Service Animals

Service animals—animals that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability—are allowed throughout the museum. Pets and emotional support animals are not considered service animals and are not allowed.

ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm

Our Displays

Only the first floor has displays. Second floor is only accessible by stairs. It is currently under construction and limited to members only.

Security

The Museum monitors for the safety of the art and the public.

Photography

This is a photo-friendly museum! Take photos and videos for personal, non-commercial use on mobile devices and cameras. Share on social media and tag us! The Museum does not allow flashes, tripods/monopods, selfie sticks, and large video recording devices.

If you are a commercial photographer looking to do a professional photo/video shoot [please contact us](#).

Enjoy the history that surrounds you and allow others to do the same. Please silence your cell phones and devices when you enter the Museum and step outside to have phone conversations.