

The Port Norris Historical Society

Meeting: September 14, 2021

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

Round Table: Members shared their memories of John Laws who recently passed away. The Port Norris Historical Society headquarters building was purchased from John Laws in 2012. He donated the outdoor light on the front of the building, which had been on his gas station building. In addition, he donated the bench seats that were from the Colonial Theater.

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

Review of Meeting Minutes: Gloria G. notified the secretary of an error in the date of the next meeting as recorded in the minutes. Mary Linda L. stated the correction had already been made prior to the meeting. Ginny C. made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2021, in-person meeting as corrected, with a second by Joyce M. The corrected minutes were approved by a unanimous vote of members present.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report is available upon request. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Dick S. and seconded by Alvina B. The report was approved by the unanimous vote of members present.

Donations: A \$500.00 donation was received from Donna Bailey.

Correspondence: Gloria G. read a thank you note from Gail Penven for the plant and certificate presented to her at the August picnic.

Email Correspondence: Rachel C. reported Bonnie Messick, a board member of Maryland's Tilghman's Watermen's Museum contacted us via email. The museum is in possession of the pilot house of the "Arabella" and were interested in finding information regarding the boat. Dick S. stated this boat was part of the oyster fleet in Port Norris.

Rachel C. thanked everyone for the kindness showed to both she and her family during her father's days in the hospital and his passing. She reported donations in his memory were received from Nancy Carol Carter (\$100.00) and Pat Moore (\$50.00). Online donations received totaled \$175.00

A birthday card from the PNHS was mailed to Vertie Kunkel who celebrated her 90th birthday recently.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Ginny C. reported we remain constant at 73 members with no new activity in the last month.

Collections: Liz brought in several small items (pens, etc. from E.L. Warren, F.F. East, Anderson & Oliver) and a reunion book from 1998. Dick S. informed the members Carolyn Robbins, former Port Norris resident, donated a large flag from the H.H. Hannah oyster boat, two additional flags one with 46 stars and one with 48 stars, and the name plate from her grandfather's oyster boat the "Mary Carolyn". Jan Capaldi donated a toolbox originally from the E.L. Warren Lumber Co. Leslie Ficcaglia, of Port Elizabeth, is moving to France and would like to give away her oak bookshelves. Rachel will be in contact with Leslie to get sizes, etc. Cindy Tawes will be contacted regarding the book collections which she may wish to donate to the Commercial Township Library.

Welcome: Faye H. and Pat S. did not visit any new families this past month.

General Business:

Robin B. would like to present a program for Seniors which we could host. The topic will be postponed until the October meeting.

Scarecrows: Rachel C. shared information from Cindy Tawes regarding the scarecrows project. Members are asked to be at the Commercial Township Senior Center on Monday, September 25th at 10:00 am to make twelve scarecrows which will be displayed during the Community Day event. Used clothing and accessories are needed to complete the scarecrow project. The Senior Center will provide lunch for anyone helping that day.

Community Day: Rachel and Robin- Commercial Township will host an all-day event to be held at the municipal building on October 2nd. We are invited to have an information table and one to sell or items. Volunteers are needed to help with set-up and shifts to work during the day. A motion was made by Ginny C. and seconded by Joyce M. to donated \$25.00 to Chamber by the Bay for fireworks.

Holly Society Special Request: Rachel C. reported the American Holly Society has a connection to the Silica Sand Plant. The Holly Society's historian recently retired. The President of the society is looking for resources to display items, artifacts, etc. about the Holly Farm. Mary Ella Morie has species of the holly bushes in her back yard.

Cumberland County Department of Planning, Tourism & Community Affairs (Omarey Williams, Shared Services

Coordinator): Rachel spoke to Omarey Williams regarding our organization and building. We may qualify for a grant to apply for project money for display boards etc. An application must be completed by October 15th. Rachel will explore this further.

General Business:

Soup Dinner: In his report, Dick S. stated making the soups involved several days and many hours of work by volunteers. Therefore, having take-out soup dinners will not be considered as one of our future fundraisers. Sponsors provided \$1,450.00 in donations. A framed certificate and a picture of Port Norris from days past will be presented to each sponsor. Sponsors include: **Cape May Salt Oyster Company, Cumberland Dairy, G.M. White Electrical Contractor, Inc., Harbor House Seafood, Inc., La Monica Fine Foods, Newcomb's Market, Port Norris Fire Company, Ray's Mechanical Service, Seabrook Brothers and Sons, Shoprite Millville, Surfside Products, Helga Ricci, and R. Douglas Smithson Wells Fargo Advisors.** In addition, Gayle Penven obtained a grant through **Thrivent Financial (Redeemer Lutheran Church of Vineland)** for purchasing supplies. Previously, we had received a \$1,000.00 donation from **Bivalve Packing.** Gayle donated a box of Thrivent t-shirts. Dick noted Gayle has provided approximately eight grants to our organization over the past years. Rachel stated we need to brainstorm for another fundraiser in place of the soup dinners.

Legends Awards: Mary Linda L. stated that voting for 2022 Legends would take place, (nominations closed on August 1st). A discussion was held to determine the number of Legends to honor for 2022. Due to the absence of a formal Legends Awards program for the past two years, it was decided to vote for three living legends and three 20th Century legends this year. Although a date of May 21st has been confirmed, a concern was voiced about conflicts with college graduations held during the month of May. Paper ballots were distributed for silent voting. Ballots were collected and tabulated by Rachel C. and Mary Linda L. Results were announced for the 2022 Legends:

Alvina Baum, Liz Hoffman, and Georgie Corona were unanimously voted in as Living Legends.

20th Century Legends, in order of votes received: **Joseph Dagastine** (15 votes), **Charles Amos Camper “Mule”** (12 votes), **Elizabeth Hoffman Lore** (12 votes), **Grace Lee** (2 votes), **Ed Cox** (4 votes).

Once Georgie is contacted and agrees to accept, October 1st will be the official announcement. Rachel may make the newsletter the official Legends 2022 announcement. Congratulatory letters will be mailed to the recipients or their family members in the coming weeks.

A Legends Committee meeting will be scheduled during the month of January.

Other Business/ Comments/ Suggestions:

Joy E. Turkali, of Port Norris, passed away.

Dick S. announced Port Norris resident, O’Connell Brown, will be a guest speaker at our November meeting. A suggestion was made to invite the public to the November meeting.

Alvina has been in contact with Belinda Hall, a former teacher and principal, living in Mary Carmichael’s house. It was agreed that Alvina invite her to attend a meeting to give a talk.

We need to continue to reach out to our community members, especially our people of color, as they have been an important part of the Port Norris community both in the past and present.

PNHS Meeting: The next meeting will be held in person at the headquarters building on Tuesday, October 12th, at 7:00pm.

Mary Linda Lacotte, Assistant Secretary

