

# The Port Norris Historical Society

## Monthly Meeting

January 14, 2025

**Members Present:** E. Bernhardt, D. Berry, V. Campbell, R. Cobb, J. Maddox, J. Massey, S. Ricci

**Zoom:** F. Hickman, J. Hickman, L. Hoffman, M.L. Lacotte

**Guests:** Lorraine Phillips, Cindy Sanza

President Rachel Cobb welcomed guests, Lorraine Phillips and Cindy Strang, residents of Downe Township, and members of the Historical Commission of Downe Township.

**January Meeting:** The regular meeting of the Port Norris Historical Society was held on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, commencing at 6:36 p.m., with President, Rachel Cobb, being in the chair and with the Secretary on Zoom.

**Review of Minutes:** The December 2024 minutes and the agenda of the January 2025 meeting were emailed to members on January 13, 2025. A motion to approve the January 2025 minutes was made by Joyce Massey, seconded by Sam Ricci and unanimously approved by members present.

**Treasurer's Report:** The December 2024 Treasurer's report was emailed to the PNHS Board members on January 12, 2025. Sam Ricci motioned to accept the report, seconded by Virginia Campbell. The motion was approved by Board members both present and on Zoom. The report will be filed for audit.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Membership:** Virginia Campbell reminded members dues are being collected for the 2025 year. Final totals at the end of December 2024 were sixty-two (62) members. As of the January meeting, the number is sixty-five (65) members.

**Correspondence:** Gloria Guidera stated she sent notes to members who were unable to attend our meetings in recent months, as per Rachel Cobb's request. Gloria read Sandy Damato's reply to the card she received.

**Collections:** A scrapbook containing newspaper clippings with connections to Port Norris was donated by guests Cindy Sanza and Lorraine Phillips. The guests explained the scrapbook had been part of the Dividing Creek Historical Society, which has now been dissolved. Built in 1897, the Union Hall building, now owned by Downe Township, was painted both inside and out. Although not active for some time, the Historical Commission of Downe Township is interested in preserving the history of the township with a museum housed in the Union Hall building. Lorraine P. and Cindy S. visited with Rachel Cobb, going over procedures and accessing materials. They were presented with our Legends cookbook.

**Building Maintenance:** Rachel C. stated the building has areas around windows and doors which need caulking to keep the outside air from blowing in.

Flooring: In addition, she suggested covering the floor in the back room with flooring to match the hall and bathroom. Rachel will explore the possibility by obtaining prices for the materials.

Outside: Rachel C. stated the members who used to shovel snow and mow the grass are unable to continue with their volunteering. She was in contact with Rita Hoffman who recommended a local resident to assist with maintenance. Rachel will reach out to the individual for the cost of snow removal and mowing the grass behind the building.

**Seed Swap:** The event is scheduled for Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to 1:00pm. The Master Gardeners from Rutgers Cooperative Extension Service will help to organize and coordinate the day.

**Legends 2025:** Mary Linda Lacotte, chairperson, reported the Legends Committee met and decided on the menu and cost of the Legends Luncheon. The menu includes two entrees, chicken parmesan and herb encrusted salmon, tossed garden greens and cheesecake with strawberries. A decision was made to increase the cost to \$40.00 per person. The NJ Motorsports Park did not charge for the addition of a second entrée selection. Letters will be mailed to the Legends honorees and/or their families, detailing all pertinent information regarding the Awards Luncheon. A 1953 class photograph of students in second and third grades at the Brown School was selected as the photograph on the front of the invitation.

Rachel Cobb suggested reprinting the Seafood cookbook so copies would be available for sale at the Legends Awards Luncheon.

Members were asked to explore new fundraising ideas for the upcoming year. Dues and donations do not cover the yearly expenses.

Rachel Cobb asked members to gather information on people who have passed in recent years, but who were not selected as Legends. The information will be put on a memoriam page.

Announcement: Ed Horseman had a stroke on Saturday, may be sent to rehabilitation facility.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34p.m. The next meeting of the PNHS will be held on February 11, 2025, at 6:30p.m

Mary Linda Lacotte,  
Recording Secretary