

Port Norris Historical Society
November 12, 2013

Attending: Ed & Kelli Adams, Rev. E. Barnes, Alvina Baum, Robin Berry, Eileen Bernhardt, Virginia Campbell, Rachel Cobb, Joanne Hickman, Liz Hoffman, Sam Ricci, Sr. and Richard Smith.

The first order of business was to make a toast to the first year in our own building. Although two small heaters were brought in, it was a very cold evening and the building was very, very cold. Rachel provided cider and we celebrated our first very successful year of building ownership. It was noted that that success was due to the cooperation of all members, very generous donors of windows, grants from 1772 NJ Historic Trust and South Jersey Industries for lead paint removal and a gas heater, sales of Scrapbooks, a soup buffet dinner and our annual Legends dinner. Thanks to all.

Motion was made by G. Campbell and seconded by J. Hickman to approve the minutes as e-mailed. Accepted.

Treasurer's Report : Balance as of October 31, 2013 in general fund is \$8861.30 and in the Capital Fund \$3404.58. There is a separate report of the "Legends Dinner" to date. We sold 114 tickets. That balance is \$1987.49 to date after RunAway Chefs were paid. The report is attached to the minutes. Suggest trying to come up with a per person cost. R. Smith moved and E.Adams seconded. Approved.

Correspondence: Mauricetown Historical Society sent information about their Christmas House Tour. Rachel will add to our web-site.

Received confirmation that the 1772 Trust received our papers and we should soon be getting that check for \$1350. New applications are being accepted for 2014.

Bids are out for a new roof. Two bids have been received so far.

Old Business: Watermen's Memorial meeting will be held at Bayshore on Friday November 22nd at 10am for anyone who is able to attend.

Legends dinner review: Pictures are downloaded and will be put on web site. Rachel will send press release. There were no negative comments. The food was excellent. Everyone had a great time. Suggestion for next year, use more people at the lectern. Move from one person to another to make the program run a little smoother. Plan ahead for that. This year seating arrangements were changed at the last minute to accommodate all the guests. Committee members were seated among the families and that worked out well. Need to check into another venue and/or look at having fewer past legends. The Community Center is not appropriate for our needs. Stacy suggested the Elks Club in Millville. They can cook there and would not have to carry the food. We have time to investigate before next year. Ed suggested that we nominate "Legends" earlier in the year. We need to develop written criteria and investigate further. Liz suggested Marie Cobb. Rachel and her father will talk to Carol Robbins. Chose the 9th of November as the date for next year. J. Hickman moved, Rev. Barnes seconded. Approved.

Tom Hollinger offered to send Rachel excerpts from the many Port Norris Pickings that he has. We can use them on the web site. They are quite charming.

Building Update

Dick Smith has been in touch with South Jersey Industries and found that we do not have to spend any monies that we might be granted in 2014 during that year. Ms. Hurtt suggested that we *might* be awarded up to \$3000. Dick suggested that we request \$4000. They would need roofing estimates. Dick has several people coming in with estimates.

Rachel found a NJ link that might provide some leads for grant opportunities. She will investigate further. Need to keep our eyes open for cabinets and shelves for the future. This is for down the road a little.

Ed and Guy moved the new heater into place last weekend. Guy suggested that perhaps the person he works for might donate the needed parts and that it possibly won't cost us anything. Hoping to have heat prior to next meeting. Guy also suggested that instead of putting a heater in the second floor, we install vent free gas fireplaces to be used as needed. Dick added that two of the roofers suggested taking the top of the chimney off since it will not be needed and that will lessen the cost of the roof.

That is an excellent idea. One price from Cedarville is \$16,000. Brighty Taylor was \$10,000.

Dick has another name highly recommended. Standing seam is very expensive, there is another tin that looks like the standing seam but is not as expensive. Discussed the floor and the sill. Cut out a smaller section of the floor and put plywood and something decorative there for the time being. Mr. Pyott to do a clean cut and repair the sill. Should be somewhat cheaper than the estimate. Back door needs to be secured. Motion to accept by D.Smith, second by J. Hickman.

Window Plaques:

Rachel has been in touch with the engraver and is having her own family done for an example. Black with gold on wood. Discussed how to handle the Senior Center and Mauricetown Gunning Club. Liz and Bob will donate one front window and the other one will be a "Paulie" window. Need the list of window donors and in memory or honor of. Alvina and Rachel to work on. Open house cannot be held at Christmas. We will not be ready. We will try to do some decorating for Christmas. Liz thinks she has an "Oyster Wreath" Others are also willing to help decorate.

Money for John Laws:

Give him \$500 now and repay ourselves when we clean the road. Motion made and seconded to give John a check now. Dick will check to see if we have to do it prior to year's end. Trying to set up a date. It will be Bivalve/Shellpile road.

Soup dinner: Second weekend in March best time for the next soup dinner. John Hoffman must get approval from his people. Joanne has priced the racks and containers.

Bayshore : Second Friday

We are invited to participate and suggested that we talk about old Port Norris traditions. Bring cookies and snacks.

December Meeting is Annual meeting by by-laws. We must have a meeting and elect officers. Agreed to have the meeting prior to our Second Friday commitment.

There is a need to realign the officer term dates due to the resignations last year. This can be done via e-mail prior to the meeting . Alvina will send a list via e-mail. We will check what time we can set up down at Bivalve and then establish what time to meet.

Dick shared an amusing memory about his Mom's fruitcake and a bottle of brandy. Our meeting theme will be Christmas memories. Everyone should try to think of stories from the past. Rachel will work on a story presentation. Discussed Christmas decorations for the building. Need to confer on what we have and when to set them up.

Rachel contacted Matt Pisarski of the Cumberland County Historical Society regarding the Peak of the Moon grant. She arranged to exchange information and mention their activities on our community site. John Laws suggested to Rachel that he would like to have a Dividing Creek Historical meeting about "Baileytown" and wondered if we would be interested in joining.

Barney Hollinger suggested that we erect a small fence between our building and theirs to keep any one from hanging out in the dark space between the buildings, after discussion it was decided to wait until after the work was done on the roof.

We discussed the need for new members as well as having programs for the public. Once we get the heat on in the building, we will investigate those possibilities. Book signings, etc. were suggested.

Need to pay the web-site annual fee again and the insurance policy must be rewritten and will be due.

Robin offered her printer to us and we accepted for future use.

There being no further business, motion made by G. Campbell and seconded by E. Bernhardt for meeting to be adjourned.

Alvina Baum, Recording Secretary