

The Port Norris Historical Society

Monthly Meeting

May 14, 2024

Members Present: E. Bernhardt, D. Berry, R. Berry, V. Campbell, R. Cobb, J. Donohue, J. Elwell, G. Guidera, L. Hoffman, M. L. Lacotte, J. Lore, D. Pettit, S. Porter, P. Smith.

The regular meeting of the Port Norris Historical Society was held on Tuesday, May 15, 2024, commencing at 6:34 p.m., with President, Rachel Cobb, being in the chair, and the Secretary present.

May Meeting: The April 2024 minutes and the May 2024 meeting agenda were emailed to active members on May 13, 2024.

Review of Minutes: Gloria Guidera motioned to approve the emailed minutes of the April 2024 meeting, seconded by Virginia Campbell, and unanimously approved by members present.

Treasurer's Report: The April 2024 Treasurer's report was emailed to the PNHS Board members on May 13, 2024. Rachel Cobb stated the report would be tabled until the next meeting as she is awaiting approval from Board members. This Treasurer's report does not reflect the final summary of the 2024 Legends Awards. The complete report will be part of the May 2024 Treasurer's Report, available at the June 2024 meeting.

Correspondence: Gloria Guidera stated notes were received from Sam Ricci and Sharon Porter acknowledging their appreciation for the Legends honors. Three thank-you notes were sent for donations received. In addition, a written note was sent to Emma Wilkerson Hackley requesting her participation in a round table program this fall. Rachel asked that a get-well card be sent to John Hickman as he recovers from his surgery.

Collections: Rachel Cobb noted Liz Hoffman donated a box of old newspapers. These newspapers will not become part of the official collections. Members are asked to take home copies, read them, and determine what is relevant for the historical society to keep in archives. Of interest would be obituaries, local town business articles or ads, and articles pertaining to the townspeople. Newspapers not applicable would be passed onto others.

Membership: Virginia Campbell reported the PNHS has a current number of fifty-six (56) members to date. The newsletter will go out to the members first, later it will be emailed to names on the newsletter list. A question was raised asking if a large donation is received, is any of that money applied to an individual membership. It was explained that some donations are earmarked for capital funds, while others do not

indicate how money is to be used. Virginia C. noted she does contact members with emails and ask for their preferences. This topic will be explored in more depth at a later date.

Building: In Dick Smith's absence, Rachel Cobb reported the painting of the building has been completed. Prior to painting, it was determined the building needed to be power washed, which the company representative did not include in the official estimate, signed by both parties. Not being part of the agreement, the historical society was not billed for the cost of power washing, an additional \$2,000. The representative estimated it would take eight (8) gallons of paint; however, it took nineteen (19) gallons of paint to complete the job. In preparation for the painting, the siding was scraped, holes repaired and caulking done where needed. Although not in the agreement, the back metal door was painted for an additional sum of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.) Rachel suggested providing a written letter to the company which they could use for tax purposes for the additional expenses incurred and not compensated.

Rachel Cobb suggested the historical society begin to explore alternatives to repainting the building, such as replacing it with non-wood siding. In the next three to four years, the members should consider beginning a campaign to finance maintaining the building.

Display Case: Rachel C. pointed out the new display case housed between the two windows in the downstairs meeting room. The Bayshore Center donated the case to us. To make space available, the seats from the movie theater were moved upstairs. Gifts cards(\$50.) were given to each of the township road crew in appreciation for their assistance in moving items for the society.

Eighth Grade Graduation Awards: Rachel Cobb announced the Commercial Township Eighth Grade Graduation is scheduled for June 13, 2024. The historical society honors two (2) students (one male and one female) with a \$50.00 cash award plus a history book and a hat. A motion was made by Virginia Campbell to approve the \$50.00 cash award to be presented to a both a male and a female graduating student. The motion was seconded by Eileen Bernhardt and unanimously passed by members present.

Rpbin Berry announced the Commercial Township Recreation Committee will also be presenting an award at the graduation program.

Bluebird Park: On Saturday, May 18, 2024, a new bluebird park will be dedicated in memoriam to Mary Ella Morie. The park is located on Noble Street in Mauricetown across from the sand plant on land previously owned by Mary Ella Morie..

Legends Awards Luncheon: Mary Linda Lacotte reported a total of 203 guests replied and paid for their dinners, (197 adults, 6 children). Approximately twenty people were unable to attend and take-outs dinners were pre-packaged for distribution. The cost of the dinners totaled \$6,030.00, plus a gratuity charge of \$1, 326.60. The historical society realized a profit of \$1.47 per guest for just the dinner. Several other cost factors (i.e., invitations, plaques, flowers, etc.) must be added to provide a more

accurate, detailed profit. The program was well received and feedback was quite positive. Kudos to Virginia Campbell for organizing all the gift bags and merchandise prior to her trip. Everyone's assistance was most appreciated to make the day so successful.

The Motorsports Park was extremely accommodating, allowing us to bring merchandise, flower arrangements, etc. on the Thursday afternoon prior to the luncheon. They provided easels for our Legends collages. On Saturday morning, the flower arrangements were set on the tables and set-up was minimal.

Legends Awards 2025 – The Motorsports Park asked us to consider having a buffet rather than a sit-down plated lunch next year. The buffet is more expensive than a plated lunch (approximately \$2.00/meal) and can be difficult for some people to navigate. With the unusually high number of take-outs dinners this year, increasing to approximately twenty, there was added pressure on the staff to accommodate so many boxed dinners.

Dates for 2025: A tentative date of Saturday, April 5, 2025, was discussed. The Motorsports Park has penciled the date in their book; however, no official confirmation has been received.

Pre-determined dates that would affect next year's awards program are: (1) PN Firemen's Oyster dinner is Saturday, March 30, 2025; (2) Palm Sunday is April 13, 2025, and Easter Sunday is April 20, 2025; (3) the Commercial Township Community yard-sale is Saturday, April 26, 2025.

Time-Line: Rachel Cobb described the timeline project, beginning with one or two sections on the wall rather than wait until the final timeline would be finished. There may be a discrepancy with the information about Dallas family members and who was actually honored as a PN Historical Legend. Members will do additional research to determine who was honored and if the names are correct in chronological order. Every one or two months, members will contribute sections they have researched..

Combined Picnic – A picnic to be held in August with the Mauricetown Historical Society was discussed. The sentiment was to coordinate an activity as an ice breaker to encourage mingling of the members. Mary Linda Lacotte state she would contact Judy Moore, President of the Mauricetown Historical Society, to discuss possible dates.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Mary Linda Lacotte,
Recording Secretary

