

The Port Norris Historical Society

February 14, 2023

Members Present: E. Bernhardt, W. Birmingham, V. Campbell, R. Cobb, G. Guidera, F. Hickman, L. Hoffman, M.L. Lacotte, J. Lacotte, J. Lore, J. Massey, D. Pettit, S. Ricci.

The regular meeting of the Port Norris Historical Society was held on Tuesday, February 14, 2023, at 7:06p.m., in the Society's headquarters building, with President, Rachel Cobb, being in the chair and the Secretary present. Rachel officially welcomed new Legend Wayne Birmingham to the meeting.

Rachel Cobb announced the evening's presentation was canceled, due to illness of the speaker. The program will be rescheduled for a future meeting date.

January Meeting: The January 2023 minutes and the February 2023 meeting agenda, was emailed to active members on February 13, 2023. The Treasurer's Report for January 2023 was emailed to Executive officers and Board of Trustees on February 11, 2023.

Review of Minutes: Gloria Guidera made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2023, meeting as emailed to active members. The motion was seconded by Sam Ricci with unanimous member approval.

Treasurer's Report: Rachel Cobb publicly thanked Sam Ricci for his time as treasurer. Faye Hickman made a motion to approve the January 2023 Treasurer's Report, completed by Sam Ricci, as emailed to PNHS Officers and Board members. The motion, seconded by Eileen Bernhardt, was approved by unanimous vote to be filed for audit.

Monetary donations: Joyce Massey reported the receipt of a \$99.00 donation from Michael Harper and Mary Annie Harper in honor of their mother, Joan Harper's 99th birthday. Donna Bailey and the DeFabrities family made monetary donations also.

Announcement: Rachel Cobb announced the resignation of Dick Smith as Vice President of the Port Norris Historical Society. She thanked him for the ten years he has served in this capacity. His resignation was accepted by an email vote of Executive Officers and Board of Trustees. Dick will continue to serve in the capacity of a Trustee. The office of Vice President will remain unfilled at this time. According to Robert's Rules of Order, in the absence of the President, with no Vice President in office, the Secretary (Corresponding) will conduct the meeting.

Committee Reports

Membership: Virginia C. reported we have sixty (60) members, including 42 members and 18 honorary members. The 2023 Living Legends will receive honorary lifetime membership status.

Correspondence: Gloria G. sent Joan Harper a birthday card and a thank-you for her donation. A note of thanks was sent to Donna Bailey and the DeFrabities family for their monetary donations.

Collections: In the absence of Pat Smith, Faye Hickman reported the following items received from BJ Tomlin (Webb): (a) picture with thermometer of her grandfather, H. W. Webb advertising his coal store; (b) photo of BJ's father, Harry Webb and his sister, Emma; (c) a photo of the PN school class, Sophie Adams Hunter teacher, circa 1920 -1922. Faye presented Willard Treen's PN School ring donated by Fay and his family. Joyce Lore donated a Port Norris Iron Works thermometer(A. Beebe) and a newspaper clipping of Poet's Corner, a poem written by Margaret Louise Mints in memoriam to Jimmy McConnell.

Welcome Committee: Faye Hickman stated she and Pat Smith know of one family that will be moving into town. A visit is planned after the family has settled into their home.

New Committees: Rachel C. announced the addition of a Programs Committee, to coordinate programs and speakers, and a Fundraising Committee to propose and investigate various ideas for fundraisers.

Finance Committee: Rachel Cobb noted possible fundraising ideas discussed at the recent committee meeting. Suggestions included selling sub tickets from WaWa or Jersey Mike's, a fundraising night at Texas Roadhouse, discount tickets at Boscov's Friends Helping Friends event in October. Rachel stated the Soup Dinner is not feasible to do and is not on the list.

A Day at the Farm: The Pennsville Historical Society invited us to set up a table at their event, June 3rd. There was no interest expressed in participating.

Seed Swap: Rachel Cobb shared highlights of the Seed Swap held on January 28, 2023, from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm. Approximately 50 people attended the event, including two professional seed savers. One of the men saves/develops heirloom tomato seeds, with special interest in aa tomato grown in Mauricetown and the Garden State Tomato from Rutgers. The other seed saver buys seed worldwide, including seeds of a Turkish yellow watermelon outside hull appearing to be a carved deign. Rachel would like to invite them to be participate next year. A special thank you to both Virginia Campbell and Faye Hickman for assisting throughout the day. Next year additional people will be needed to volunteer at the event. It was suggested the guest book be placed near the front door, asking for email addresses. This event could be beneficial to the PNHS. A \$5.00 donation was received.

Building – A report from Dick Smith stated the upstairs windows are, however Plowman's will not be able to begin installation until their schedule allows. Insulation for the upstairs was ordered, with a \$79.00 delivery charge. Dick S. has contacted and

arranged for the Commercial Township Road crew to unload the insulation and carry it upstairs. Guy Chamberlain intends to have the insulation work completed by May. Dick will contact the dry wall contractor now that heat and air conditioning work has been completed.

Stained Glass Transom – Rachel Cobb has been in contact with Debi Hollinger who will begin sketches of the design for the stained glass transom windows over the building's front doors. There will be two designs, one on each portion of the glass transom ... the "Mary Ella" schooner and a marsh/water scene. A motion was made by Liz Hoffman and seconded by Joyce Lore for the design to be both the Mary Ella schooner and marsh/water designs. The stained glass windows are in memory of Alvina Baum.

Wi-Fi: Rachel Cobb reported the monthly charge for Wi-Fi would be \$140.00. Comcast considers our organization as a business not a residence, as there is no one living in the building. The status as a 501c3 non-profit was not a consideration for a reduction in the fees. Other options will be explored. In the future, it may be a consideration to work cooperatively with other organizations for Wi-Fi.

Legends 2023: Mary Linda Lacotte updated members on the Legends committee meeting with the NJ Motorsports Park catering managers. The NJ Motorsports Park will credit the deposit of \$250.00 made in 2019 and roll it over for this year. A children's meal, consisting of chicken fingers, fries, and ice cream, at a cost of \$14.95 plus service charge was added to the menu. It was decided to charge the cost of \$18.00 for any children who attend. Based on the estimated count, only half of the room, which holds 160 people, will be used as Covid restrictions have diminished. All tables will be set for eight guests, with colored napkins included at no extra charge. Staff will be available for arrival at 9:30a.m. on April 22nd. Assistance will be needed with transporting/unloading the sale items and table centerpieces into the building. Plaques have been donated (\$30.00/plaque) for Wayne Birmingham, Charles Amos Camper, and Joe Dagastine. Virginia C. will go to the mail and take the reply cards to Roseann, who will work with Mariea M. and Faye H. to tally entrees. Rachel Cobb noted 150 invitations will be ordered at a cost of \$120.00. Invitations need to be mailed out to guests by March 6th.

Virginia C. discussed changes to the basket event, noting an increase in the number of baskets from three to five, using themes for items donated. She will email the list of basket themes to members.

A work meeting of the Legends committee will be held at the building on Monday, March 6th at 1:00p.m to assemble invitations for mailing.

Liz Hoffman won a door prize, a potted miniature rose plant, donated by Virginia Campbell. Hot chocolate was provided by Rachel C.

In the absence of the speaker, Rachel C. gave a detailed account of a few items that are in our collections.

Next meeting: March 14, 2023

Rachel adjourned the meeting at 8:17pm.

Mary Linda Lacotte, Recording Secretary

Corrections: Date _____