

The Port Norris Historical Society

July 11, 2023

Members Present: E. Bernhardt, V. Campbell, S. Damato, F. Hickman, B. Hall, M. L. Lacotte, J. Massey, M. Moore, S. Ricci, D. Smith, P. Smith, R. Smith.
Guests: C. Schubert, B. Schubert

The regular meeting of the Port Norris Historical Society was held on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, commencing at 7:05 p.m., in the Society's headquarters building, with Vice-President, Faye Hickman, being in the chair in the absence of President Rachel Cobb, and the Secretary present.

March Meeting: The June minutes and the July 2023 meeting agenda were emailed to active members on July 10, 2023. The Treasurer's Report for June 2023 was emailed to Executive officers on July 6, 2023.

Review of Minutes: Sandy Damato made a motion to approve the emailed minutes of the June 2023 meeting. Ginny Campbell seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously by members present.

Treasurer's Report: A motion to approve the June 2023 Treasurer's report, emailed by Joyce Massey/Rachel Cobb was made by Mariea Moore, seconded by V. Campbell. Approved by unanimous vote, the report will be filed for audit.

Monetary Donations: Sponsors for the Soup Dinner have made donations to the PNHS, which will be discussed later in Dick Smith's report.

Committee Reports

Membership: Virginia Campbell reported a current total of seventy-two (72) members to date.

Correspondence: In G. Guidera's absence, Joyce Massey read a thank you note received from the Millville Army Air Field Museum acknowledging our \$100.00 donation for the June program presented by David McCarthy, a volunteer at the museum

Collections: Dick Smith (in Pat Smith's absence): Parker Stowman is moving out of the area and has donated booklets, shucking knives and other items related to the oyster industry. Pat S. will log them in the appropriate file. The Palomino Restaurant menu donated by Sandy Damato has been documented. Also documented are all the uniforms and military records of Charles L. Wilford, who was drafted in April while still in high school. He received a continuance to complete his high school education

before reporting for the draft. All documents related to his military service were also documented.

Building Clean-up Day: Dick asked for members to volunteer to clean the upstairs rooms now that the renovation work has been completed. Organization and storing of items will be part of the clean-up. An email message will be sent to members for feedback on a date in June to schedule the clean-up detail.

Welcome Committee: Faye H., Pat S., and Roseann S. visited Collen and Bill Schubert, who purchased John Hickman's parents' home on High Street and invited them to our meeting. The welcome committee also visited the home of Luis and Anna Pagan, on Temperance Street (former residence of Kathy Ore).

Annual Picnic: Our annual picnic will be a combined event with the Mauricetown Historical Society, scheduled for Saturday, July 22, from 2:00 pm to 5:00pm. In the event of rain, the picnic will be held inside the building. The members of the Mauricetown Historical Society have offered to host the picnic at their headquarters, 1229 Front Street. As a coordinated effort, this year the MHS members will provide the main meat dishes and the PNHS members will supply accompanying sides. The food list was passed around for members to note their contributions. Additional information will be sent by email once plans are totally finalized.

Soup Dinner: Dick Smith reported he has received ten(10) checks from sponsors totaling \$2400.00. He is waiting for a response from an additional five (5) sponsors. Dick will distribute soup dinner tickets and buckets for the soup after the meeting. Each member will receive ten tickets, which are perforated, with four tickets printed on a sheet. Dick explained the larger portion of each ticket is given to the person purchasing the ticket. The smaller stub, checked off for eat-in or take-out, is returned to the PNHS. In order to prepare for the number of take-out dinners sold, Dick emphasized the importance of marking tickets for either eat-in or take-out in addition to noting the designated time for take-outs. Members are asked to number their own tickets, with respect to the numbers Dick will provide. He has received commitments for all soups; Virginia C. has volunteered to find people to supply the salads and Roseann S. will contact people to provide desserts. Faye H. and Pat S. will take inventory and purchase necessary supplies. Gail Penven will once again obtain a \$250.00 grant through Thrivent to purchase some of the supplies.

A special Soup Dinner meeting will be held on Thursday, September 7, 2023, from 10:00am to 11:00am to discuss final plans for the dinner.

Security Alarm System: Joyce Massey received a notice that ADT will increase their monthly billing fee with \$4.49 added to the total charge.

Wi-Fi: Faye H. stated she sent an email to Rachel C. stating that she and John H. had switched their internet and mobile phone from a Verizon account to a T-Mobile account. They have seen significant savings, approximately half the cost of their

Verizon service plan. T-Mobile towers are using the towers near the former Port Norris Express lots. The service plan allowed them to keep their existing phone numbers and to transfer their contacts to the new phones. It was suggested we explore the possibility of acquiring a T-Mobile account for the PNHS, including a phone and internet.

PNHS Legends: Mary Linda L. asked for suggested dates for the 2024 Legends Awards. Consensus was that April is the best month to have the Legends Awards dinner. Dates of April 13, 2024, or April 20, 2024, will be reviewed with the NJ Motorsports Park for availability.

NJ Black Heritage Trail: Mary Linda L. reported there is a NJ Black Heritage Trail, and the NJ Historical Commission is seeking input from the public to recognize local Black Americans who have made a significant impact on New Jersey 's history. Larry Ericksen, director of the Seabrook Education and Cultural Commission, attended a ZOOM meeting and passed the information on. In the ZOOM, Larry mentioned how members of the black community impacted Port Norris, the Bayshore, and the oyster industry and played a significant role in the local area's history. The goal is to place historic markers in the local communities representing the role the Black Americans played.

Pictures of Shellpile: Mariea Moore purchased pictures of Shellpile which she found available for bid on e-Bay.

Non-Profit Forms: Dick noted he had contacted Sam for the 501c3 tax exempt form for needed for sponsors. This application to continue as a 501c3 non-profit organization must be renewed every three years. Dick suggested the PNHS maintain a folder with all required paperwork and documents that need to be completed for each year. A calendar should be part of the file, with specific dates highlighted as reminders of due dates.

Joyce Massey made a motion to adjourn, Sandy Damato seconded, and the motion was carried. Faye Hickman adjourned the meeting at 7:53 pm.

Mary Linda Lacotte, Recording Secretary
Corrections:

Date _____