

The Port Norris Historical Society

September 12 , 2023

Members Present: E. Bernhardt, R. Berry, V. Campbell, R. Cobb, J. Elwell, F. Hickman, M. L. Lacotte, J. Massey, D. Smith, P. Smith,

The regular meeting of the Port Norris Historical Society was held on Tuesday, September 12, 2023, commencing at 7:04 p.m., in the Society's headquarters building, with President, Rachel Cobb, being in the chair and the Secretary present.

Thank you to all who came early to clean up the building prior to Sunday's guests.

September Meeting: The July minutes and the September 2023 meeting agenda were emailed to active members on September 11, 2023. The Treasurer's Report for August 2023 was emailed to Executive officers on September 11, 2023.

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

Treasurer's Report: A motion to approve the July 2023 and August 2023 Treasurer's reports, emailed by Joyce Massey/Rachel Cobb was made by Liz Hoffman and seconded by Eileen Bernhardt. Approved by unanimous vote, the report will be filed for audit.

Donations: A special thank you to Joyce Lore and Donna Pettit who personally purchased plate stands for the display cabinet.

Monetary Donations: Sponsors for the Soup Dinner have made donations to the PNHS, which will be discussed later in Dick Smith's report. Two personal donations totaling \$150.00 were received for the soup dinner.

Monthly programs: Rachel Cobb asked for recommendations for future meetings. A lady who lives in Port Norris was recommended by Mary Tortorici. The Bayshore Discovery Center has recorded live sharing stories. Gloria Guidera will contact Mary T. and will write a note to the individual. Rachel stated the Bayshore Discovery Center has produced a short film that we could use at one of our meetings. Dick Smith suggested Grace Conrad, daughter of Ray Conrad as a possible speaker. Grace gathers monarch butterfly eggs to hatch and identify them with stickers. Dick noted that Ray Conrad, who purchased the mattress factory in Berrytown and does restoration work on mausoleums, was one of the sponsors for this year's Soup dinner.

President's report: Rachel Cobb mentioned the unexpected passing of a male crew worker on the A.K. Meerwald.

The PNHS purchased a Dell all in one computer and Cannon laser printer, which was on sale, on August 25, 2023, from Best Buy. A Microsoft software package was purchased for a yearly fee, in addition to a three year protection plan for the computer. Wi-Fi access is needed for internet connection and to set up the computer. T-Mobile considers the PNHS a business but is unable to locate the address of the building, therefore, our address is not compatible with the T-Mobile computer. The issue may be with the mailing address of the PNHS, using a post office box number, not a physical address. It was suggested to inquire about adding the physical address to the post office number.

Options suggested were (a) to purchase a "hotspot" outright at a cost of \$250.00, (b) to have a hotspot for \$60.00 per month and add to monthly service fee for \$24.00, (c) rent a modem and phone for \$140.00 per month. There are many options to consider with phones, hotspots, etc. The budget committee will be meeting soon, and recommendations could be made for telecommunications.

Committee Reports

Membership: Virginia Campbell mentioned new member, Joseph Elwell, reported a current total of seventy-six (76) members to date. * See noted correction

Correspondence: Gloria Guidera was asked to send a sympathy card to Jim Robbins, expressing our condolences for the passing of his sister, Florence.

Collections: Rachel Cobb displayed a large wooden bird, hand carved by Herb Moore and donated by Pat Riley Hammer. Mary Linda Lacotte delivered a photograph donated by Joan Harper of a gathering of Port Norris residents at Union Lake, possibly a Methodist church picnic, with a list of names identifying the people in the photograph. These two new items will have to be logged in.

Collections Committee: Members have met and are in the beginning phase of entering data into the files.

Welcome Committee: Faye H., Pat S., have new families to visit after the soup dinner.

The PNHS will not participate in the making of scarecrows with the Senior Center.

Community Day: Rachel Cobb stated the Commercial Township Community Day is scheduled for Saturday, October 14th, from 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm. There will be a laser light show in the evening. Discussion did not determine conclude if the PNHS should set-up an information table at the event. An email asking for feedback will follow.

Soup Dinner: Dick Smith reported he has received \$4,000.00 from sponsors minus the PayPal fee, \$2,600.00 in ticket sales and \$150.00 in donations, totaling \$6,196.00. There are unsold tickets that have not been returned. The profit from the soup dinner should cover the annual building expenses. Expenses to date: \$300.00 paid for set-up and take down at the fire hall; \$100.00 for dishwasher; \$200.00 for supplies in addition to the \$250.00 gift card from Thrivent (Gail Penven); approximately \$160.00 for framed photographs as thank-you to sponsors. Wa-Wa is providing the creamers, sugars, etc.; Dick has not had a response from Cumberland Dairy regarding the half and half. Tip jars are in the storage trailer. Faye Hickman recommended all supplies be stored in Rubbermaid containers inside the storage trailer.

Dick is asking all member who are working to be at the PN Fire Hall at 11:30 am on Saturday, September 23rd. John Hickman will bring truck down with supplies, etc. Rachel will provide potted ivy plants for the centerpieces, which will be available for sale. Virginia Campbell asked for assistance to take all sale items from the building and transport to the fire hall the morning of the dinner.

Dick asked for Virginia C. to bring the sale items down to the main floor for the group tour on Sunday, September 17th.

Building: Dick reported the computer and printer were moved to the upstairs office area by a couple of local young men were willing to carry all the boxes. It was suggested to purchase command strips to attach the plaques designating the donors for the newly purchased windows.

Combined Picnic: Overall discussion was positive. The two historical societies are in the same township and it would be beneficial to establish an alliance with the Mauricetown Historical Society. It was suggested to have an ice-breaker activity to encourage dialogue and friendship amongst the two groups of members. Other options can be explored for future picnics.

The Mauricetown Riverfest, known as Artist Day in the past, will be held on Saturday, September 16, 2023 on the grounds of the Mauricetown Historical Society.

Legends 2024: Mary Linda Lacotte announced the Legends Awards Luncheon for 2024 will be held on Saturday, April 13, 2024, at the NJ Motorsports Park. Nominations will officially be accepted beginning October 1, 2023, with nominees forms presented at the November 2023 meeting, and voting taking place at the December 2023 meeting. During discussion, it was determined that a set of criteria would be helpful to use in considering the candidates. The name of Edith Selby, Fletcher Jamison's aunt, was suggested as a possible nominee.

Timeline: Rachel Cobb presented the PNHS timeline and asked members to read through it. This timeline will allow for self-guided tours of the building. It is an ongoing activity, working on one section at a time. Robin Berry shared the sections on trolleys and fire company and churches and "The Migrants" film made in 1973, which

she summarized for the timeline. A suggestion was to locate the film and possibly use the film for a movie night.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Mary Linda Lacotte, Recording Secretary

* Corrections: Virginia Campbell sent an email message on September 16, 2023, to correct the total number of members reported at the September meeting from 76 to 73 members.

Date _____