

## **PENTWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

### **Board Meeting Minutes – November 2, 2016**

The meeting was called to order by board president, Dick Warner at 1:00 p.m. in the lower level of the museum.

Board Members Present: Dick Warner, Roger MacLeod, Michael Castor, Joan Gehringer, Ed Bigelow, Jim Lambrix, Mark Shotwell, Sally Ouweneel, Debbie Deward and Bob Childers

Board Member Absent: Bill O'Donnell

**Approval of agenda**: A motion to approve the agenda was made by Mike Castor and seconded by Roger MacLeod. The agenda was unanimously approved.

**Approval of minutes**: A motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on October 4, 2016 was made by Ed Bigelow and seconded by Sally Ouweneel. The minutes were unanimously approved.

### **ON GOING ACTIVITIES STATUS REPORTS**

**Treasurer's Report**: A financial report for October, 2016 along with the proposed 2017 budget was emailed to all board members by Mike Castor prior to the meeting. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Mark Shotwell and seconded by Roger MacLeod. The report was unanimously approved.

**Museum Activities**: Dick Warner said that Eric from Consumers Energy has not returned his calls on the "Big Dig" project that Dick has been trying to get as a display for 2017. He is concerned that it will not be big enough to fill the display area. Dick is also working on a possible Idlewild display called, "The Black Eden of Michigan". It would cost \$1,000 plus shipping and we would have it for eight weeks.

He could also reinstate the "Lost and Found Ships" display if need be.

Renee Berggren Connoy is going to start the donor board next week.

We will be getting a display case along with a shelf display donated from the Pentwater Township library.

The Minch model from Andy Todd is coming in the spring.

**Special Events for 2017:** Debbie Deward stated that the spring dinner will be on May 24, 2017. We are looking for new caterers for the event. We will also be having a 50/50 raffle.

The 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be held May 27, 2017. We are having cookies and coffee outside of the building. We will not be holding the tin-can raffle. Debbie will advertise in the newspapers.

Dick Warner asked if the museum will be open on Founders Day (May 6<sup>th</sup>). Debbie said that it will be and that the Chamber of Commerce needs to advertise that we will be open.

The annual garage sale at the museum will be held June 10, 2017 at the museum. Debbie gave Jim Pikkart the information for it for the newsletter coming out soon. It will also be put in the spring newsletter. Debbie and Ed Bigelow will be the contact people given if anyone has a donation for it.

The pancake breakfast is June 25, 2017. It will be done by Chris Cakes again. The tickets will be printed and pre-sold at the spring dinner and the 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The ticket will also have a secondary rain location. It will be held from 9:00 a.m. until noon. The ticket prices will be \$8.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children. There will be two banners at the north and south entrance into town as well as two additional banners. One will be in front of the museum and the other will be across from the State Park entrance.

The summer dinner will be held on August 23, 2017. We will have a 50/50 raffle.

The speaker Debbie has in mind for the spring dinner is archeologist and author, Chuck Leland. He will talk about the Indian tribes in

the Pentwater area. Dick Warner suggested bringing back Lee Murdock for the spring dinner. He also suggested possibly having Ross Richardson who is a speaker on shipwrecks. The Sable Point Light Keeper Association may be able to suggest a good speaker, also. He thinks we need more of a draw. The spring dinner affects the summer dinner attendance.

Debbie is recommending plain brown paper bags as a give-away for the parade. We could then stamp our logo on each bag. The cost would be 20 cases (5000) x \$52 = \$1040 plus an additional \$200 for 4 rubber stamps. Mark Shotwell said that using stickers instead of the stamps would be cheaper. Debbie was advised to wait until the first of the year to order them.

Give-aways for the 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary would be possibly a bookmark or a pen. It was decided to table the decision until the next meeting in January.

**Museum Report:** Ed Bigelow told the board that the Pentwater Township library is giving us cabinets and a shelving unit along with possibly some Henry Carter Johnson glass figurines. The library first needs to check with the donors of the figurines to see if it is okay with them to pass them on to the museum.

Ed said that we had approximately 940 visitors in 2016. That number is down a little from 2015, but he feels we still had a good year. There were 95 new artifacts donated this year.

Ed stated that the museum needs to be kept fresh and new to entice people to come back. We need to keep advertising.

Amy LaBarge said she would continue to do the host scheduling for next year.

Roger MacLeod thought that more should be done to recognize the hosts that volunteer. Ed said that Amy always sends a thank you letter to all that have volunteered, but Roger thought that more was needed. Discussion followed with different ideas that we could do.

**Buildings and Grounds:** Ed Bigelow said that Glenn Beavis got the following three bids for the tuck pointing of the museum:  
Ruggles & Son Masonry for \$5,000

Dave's

Masonry for \$2700 - \$2800

Northern

Restoration Systems - \$14,800

Dave's Masonry also came with a detailed worksheet of what they will do.

Roger MacLeod suggested that Glenn get references and make sure that they are insured.

Dick Warner suggested having the lowest bidder do the corner that is the worst and see how it does thru the winter.

Mike Castor said we need to check to see if it's too late in the year weather-wise and if they are even available right now.

Ed Bigelow will tell Glenn Beavis that we will do the tuck pointing in 2017, but need to have two references from Dave's Masonry and to make sure he is insured. He will also need to get an itemized list from Ruggles & Son on what will be covered if they do the job.

Mike Caster made a motion to move forward on the project in 2017 and get it done as soon as possible with the contractor to be determined. Sally Ouweneel seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Web Site Management:** Mark Shotwell said that we could possibly get a donation of computers from the library if we're interested.

Jim Lambrix gave the board a proposed letter he would like to send to the Pentwater village council or to appear in the newspaper suggesting we have free movie nights at the Village Green. We would then sell popcorn to make money for the museum. A tent could be put up for it.

Other ideas proposed are:

Sponsor a 10 speed bike race. Charge a fee to be in the race.

Possibly have a shorter course for younger kids.

Have human foosball tables on the Village Green.

Kayak races

Fishing tournament in July

Jim also brought pictures of a boat that used to be at the Yacht club. It was formerly owned by Al Capone. Jim is doing an article on it for a future newsletter.

**Newsletter and Walking Tour Booklet:** The deadline date to get any articles, notices, etc. for the upcoming newsletter is November 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Ted Resser Family Memorial Donation Planning:** Roger MacLeod said that the Resser family is interested in donating money for a professional display done for improvement to our property in the form of a memorial garden. Ed Bigelow read an email sent by landscape architects Norm Booth and Gail Zink outlining what they could do in designing a memorial for the family. The family wanted to see what could be done for \$10,000 and also for \$20,000. The family is also interested in giving or loaning items to make up a Ted Resser display in the museum, as well. The family thought that future donations could also be raised from their family contacts.

Roger moved to accept the recommendation of landscape architects, Norm Booth and Gail Zink and to go forward with a concept design to be used as a commemorative memorial to Ted and Shirley Ann Resser. We need them to move forward as soon as possible with this project. Mike Castor seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

## **INITIATIVES**

**2017 Calendar and Post Card Sales** - Dick Warner said that all 500 calendars have now been sold. We are in a 501C3 tax category which means that we now have to pay \$350 in sales tax because we went over \$5,000 in sales.

Dick also said that the post cards are selling well.

A two day spring cleanup needs to be scheduled for early 2017. It will have to be completed before Founders Day (May 6<sup>th</sup>). Debbie Deward suggested putting it in the upcoming newsletter for possible volunteers to help.

Red Barn - Mike Castor talked to Andy Skinner about doing an article on what we want as a community to become of the Red Barn. He also talked to Manny Valdez at the State Park. A group could possibly be established as "Friends of the Red Barn" that could be established with the community foundation. Andy is going to do some research on it and come up with an article for the newspaper. Mike will update the board at the next meeting in January. Mike stated that the money raised initially for the barn can only be used for that purpose.

Oceana Community Foundation Wish List – Mike Castor said that our wish list was submitted to the community foundation. The three categories and what we submitted are as follows:

1. \$0 to \$499 category - Updating software
  2. \$500 to \$1500 category – New chairs for the board room
  3. \$1500 and up category - \$3000 to go towards our mini split heating and cooling system for the upstairs research area.
- Mike suggested that we could possibly match funds.

2017 Sesquicentennial planning – Debbie Deward suggested that our docents dress up in period outfits for homecoming weekend.

Sesquicentennial committee would like to put together a book of old stories and pictures from townspeople and info from PHS. Dick Warner is pulling some stories together.

Debbie and Ed Bigelow will work with Andy Skinner and Jim Young to publish articles on a bi-weekly basis from newspaper articles dating back from 1867 to current year. Publication will start in March, 2017.

Also the committee wants to take the Centennial book and add the additional 50 years of events that have happened throughout the years to make a book for the sesquicentennial.

Claudia Hodan is working on a collection of old photos and film strips of Pentwater to make a DVD to show in Pentwater during the summer and will have it for sale.

Debbie wants to form a committee to plan and build a float for the homecoming parade that looks like the ferry crossing the channel.

Budget review - Mike Castor said he still needs to get items on the budget. He still did not have a figure for Marketing. Dick Warner brought up several things that would go under that budget. Should we advertise in the PTW or Michigan History again? Do we need more brochures for the welcome center? If not, we need to have some printed.

The newsletters could be printed for 40% less (\$1100 compared to \$1800 that we pay now) if we send them to the printer in St. Louis that Peter Rexford suggested.

Mike asked that all the budget numbers be sent to him in the next week.

Sally Ouweneel stated that the annual dues notice was just sent out to all members. Her new email address is "sallyann7071@gmail.com"  
The membership committee will meet soon.

The agenda items not addressed in this meeting were #6 (mini split project update), #7 (PHS areas for volunteering communication/coordination) and #9 (spring garage sale). They will be tabled until our next meeting on January 4, 2017.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mike Castor and seconded by Mark Shotwell. It was unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joan Gehringer - Secretary

