

PENTWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Minutes of Board Meeting – August 12, 2020
First Baptist Church – Friendship Center

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by board president, Dick Warner, at 11:35 a.m.

Board member roll Call:

Board members present: Dick Warner, Norm Shotwell, Dan Hoekstra, Mark Shotwell, Debbie Deward, Amy VanderZwart, Bart Zachrich, Beth Russell

Board members absent: Jim Lambrix, Terry Roach, Sylvia Warner.

Approval of the agenda:

After discussion, a motion was made by Norm Shotwell and seconded by Dan Hoekstra to modify the agenda to include approval of the June minutes, and add discussion of officer election.

Ongoing Activities – Status Reports:

a) Treasurer's Report – Bart Zachrich

July 12 – August 9, in the red by \$1176. A lot of expenses have already been covered for the garage sale, and extra insurance premium (they did not invoice us in 2019). Contributions of \$1178 so far, tips from boat tour were approx \$500. Only a few additional dues payments, although this is typically emphasized in the fall. Ebay postcards, Decors by Sandra has also had some checks to us. Total was \$684 there.

Questions about the boat tour: who gets the tips? The museum gets a portion of the money from the tips that have been given there. One person gave a \$400 tip.

Comment was made that feedback has been received that emails are not being answered when people ask to make reservations.

Membership dinner reserve funds will be used for other purposes. Some supplies purchased for archiving purposes, and for garage sale materials (tents, tarps, etc.)

Roofing bill included some added expenses with need of a lift, but roofers did not charge us for labor so the expenses were still reasonable. Roofer will also loan inside scaffolding to fix the spots on the ceiling at no charge. Dan will handle the repairs himself. The roofer is Janet Swanson. As a thank you, a one-year membership will be given to Janet Swanson, the roofer.

A motion was made by Norm Shotwell to approve financial reports. It was seconded and unanimously approved.

b) Membership Report – Dick Warner

Membership of Lake Association has been compared with PHS membership. Dick will contact PLA to ask if we can contact their membership to tell them about PHS. There are about 160 PLA members that are not yet in PHS Membership.

c) Museum Activities – Dick Warner

Research activity is very time consuming. i.e. someone is doing research for a book, and is wondering if a particular individual that lived in Pentwater had photos in the museum, etc. Other organizations charge for this service. To be discussed in September meeting. See sample of Mason County Historical Society.

Terry has drafted text for a sign next to the Information Booth. Lots of people wonder about the booth, but there is no information at the booth regarding PHS or the history of the booth. Sign will be researched to estimate expense. Terry has spent many hours getting the painting right, and is now cleaning the concrete to remove excess paint.

Ad is being updated to reflect the postcard exhibit.

Guide by Cell will need to be renewed. Reports will be obtained to verify usage, and vote will be taken in September.

d) 2020 Events Planning – Deb Deward

- More item donations are still arriving.
- More help is needed on Thursday and Friday at 9am.
- Deb's schedule shows all that needs to be done on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.
- Bart to get cash to be used for change. 2 X \$200, so 2 people will be able to collect money and make change.
- Volunteers on Saturday will wear reflective vests. Dan will help to get the vests from Baptist Church food pantry.
- Donated bricks have Middlesex stamp on them. Priced at \$50 per brick at garage sale, or may be moved to eBay.
- VenMo account will be setup by Mark on Deb's phone.
- Draft advertising info about the PHS sale to refer to the other 2 garage sales in town. Dan H. will write this up, to be available for distribution at each sale.

e) Marketing Plan 2020 – Jim Lambrix

deferred to September

f) Museum Operation Report – Dan Hoekstra

- Docent staffing still needed for September and October.
- Ebay sales, postcards are selling well. i.e. 1916 airshow postcard. July total was \$528. Museum take was \$341 after fees for eBay and consignment.

- Guide by Cell - As previously discussed, reports on usage will be reviewed to determine whether or not this service will be continued. Vote will be taken in September on whether or not to continue it.

- Museum maintenance

See previous discussion about the roof and gutter work. Inside work is still to be done, but the roofer will loan scaffolding to at no charge.

Booth painters had lots of people asking about the booth and what it was used for. Terry has put in many hours on the painting of the booth, in addition to the painting done by volunteers.

Watchtower might be given to the PHS, upon retirement or death of the owner of Snug Harbor, or possibly sooner (Jack Witt?). Could the land be donated in perpetuity to hold these two items? Maybe a second pad of land added by the information booth to house the watchtower? What about insurance, in case kids climb the watchtower? Dan would like to have electricity added to the information booth.

Dick has a document to show that PHS already owns the booth. The son might be more willing to give these items to the PHS without discussion.

- Vintage log: it was covered on the Channel 13 news show (WZZM – Grand Rapids). What do we do with it? If we're going to keep it, it needs to be preserved. Do we want to keep it? Where do we showcase it? How do we preserve it?

How much would it cost to preserve it? It needs to be coated, and a roof structure to keep snow and rain off. Probably about \$50 per year to keep it preserved.

It's 20 feet long, and probably weighs 3000 pounds.

Location of display will be the side yard. We will need to have a sign to explain the details about the logs.

Transportation to the museum is already arranged. Building of cradles is still to be done.

Motion made by Norm Shotwell, to save the log and display it. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

g) Technology – Mark Shotwell

- email address created to gather information for history of Penwater 1943 to present. This is an initiative that Dan Hoekstra is starting, to document businesses and families that have been important to Pentwater in the last 75 years. He will be soliciting the stories from families and businesses during this timeframe. One example is that a garage is still in place that was used during the 1930s, depression-era, on Lowell Ave, next the alley, lettering above the doors says “REED”. This was where food was handed out during the depression. This is just down from the Dairy-Kreme, toward the State Park. Reed was a pilot during WWII and had reference to Pentwater painted on his plane.) Dan will draft his request for information and post it to board members in preparation for sending the request to individuals and businesses.

h) PHS – Newsletter

- October 1 is the next due date.
- Deb has photos from roofing work.
- Dan will submit an article on his 1943 project.
- Amy will take photos from anyone that has a photo of interest.
- Docents should be reminded to give out back copies of the newsletter.

INITIATIVES

- 1) The old building on Hancock is going to come down. The 10' circle (from the old basketball court) needs to be removed from the 2nd floor. Grinding wheels, ledgers, and other items also need to be removed.
- 2) Elections: According to bylaws, it is normally held the last weekend of August at the dinner, and new officers take office on September 1. A trustee position is open. Mark Shotwell will look into using Google to have an online ballot. Text will be drafted to let people know that if they don't vote the board's recommendations will be voted by proxy.

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PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Discussion of expansion plans took place within the meeting. Further discussion will be put on the September agenda. One potential large donor noted a matching funding deadline, and it will be necessary to begin fundraising soon in order to take advantage of this matching option.

ADJOURNMENT

Dan H. made motion to adjourn at 1:04. Dick Warner seconded it. Approved.

Next meetings:

September 9, 2020

October 14, 2020