

German Settlement History, Inc.
June 14, 2009 Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Michael Meier at 2:07 P.M.

Present at the meeting were Karen Baumgartner, Karen Johnson, Marvin Meier, Marilyn Erickson, Luann Lind, Ron Meier, Maryalice McHugh, Gene Meier, Toni Meier, Michael Meier and Dawn Meier. Absent and excused was Patricia Mueller. Visitors included Pat Swenson, Bob Harsch, Lavern Josiak, LaVonne Meier and Harold Rhody.

The minutes of the April 4, 2009 meeting were reviewed and approved as written. The Treasurer's report was reviewed with follow-up discussion and further detail of several key points. GSHI received a donation of money from the Hillbillies 4H Club to be used as an Elaine Vanderhoof Memorial Garden, which could also expand into a "Liberty School Teachers Garden". The category of "in-kind contributions" was discussed. During construction of the new building, Terry Johnson donated a significant amount of his personal time and use of his own vehicle to shuttle the work crew each day, Toni Meier and Karen Johnson fed the work crew each day while on the work site, plus there was additional specialized equipment that was used during the construction of the building. These types of donated contributions will be identified in the future. Maryalice moved to accept the treasurer's report seconded by Karen Johnson and unanimously approved.

The Barn Dance Fundraiser was discussed and critiqued with overwhelmingly positive comments about the success of the event. A few suggestions for improvement for next year include a possible relocation of either the pie and ice cream table or the silent auction items, requiring dollar increments on bids which will facilitate a quicker tally at the end of the night, providing a "tip jar" at the pie table and also looking into the possibility of expanding the event into the second hay mow to provide additional seating.

The \$1,000 grant from Plum Creek Corporation was delivered by Bill O'Brion during the meeting and a photo taken with the GSHI board members receiving the check.

The new building has been completed by the contractor, Henry Mast with additional finish work still needing to be accomplished by volunteers. The color choice of dark blue and gray is very appealing and compliments the roof color of Liberty School nicely. With the additional projects such as leveling the floor with crushed granite or gravel and planning for the eventual location of displays, it was agreed that the building committee would make necessary decisions as needed regarding specifics to complete the shed. It is our hope that by fall of 2009 the farm implements will begin being placed for storage and display in the building. In the meantime we would like to come up with a unique name for the building.

Luann made a motion, seconded by Ron that we focus the collection on early 20th century machinery used on a typical farm in the area and was unanimously approved by the GSHI board. We agree that we will seek one good quality item of each of the typical types of

equipment in use during the early 1900's in northern Wisconsin. Stressing the point that we are creating a museum to display quality examples, and we are not simply collecting multiple items of the same type. We welcome donations of all sorts, but will use discretion regarding the eventual display of individual pieces.

Michael and Toni continue to work out the legal details regarding the future of the property in regards to succession planning.

Michael reported that the next issue of the Liberty School News should be ready for publication in July.

A large photo entitled "Spirit Gothic" was donated by Bill Hoffman for possible display. Peter and Charlotte Johnson and another (yet to be identified) woman are shown in the photo. Luann will talk with Pearl Kauer, Wayne or Joe Johnson to get official permission to display the photo.

At the next meeting we will decide on the terms of office, job duties of officers and the process for electing officers. We may appoint interim officers until the annual meeting in January at which time the new terms would begin. There was discussion about the current by-laws, collection policy and mission statement. At the next meeting, board members are asked to bring examples of by-laws from other organizations that may help to determine how to proceed.

There will be an Open House over Labor Day weekend with Sunday Sept. 6th noon to 5:00 followed with a potluck and GSHI board meeting and Monday Sept. 7th 10-5.

Spirit Memorial Park update - LaVonne reported that the play equipment will be installed by July 4 including BBQ grills near the shelters.

The next GSHI meeting is scheduled for Sunday Sept 6, 2009 at 5:00.

Meeting was adjourned with a potluck lunch following the meeting and a short work day for anyone that was able to help. Spring cleaning of the Yesterday House and work on the perennial flower garden walkway were the main projects accomplished.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Meier
Secretary