

**German Settlement History, Inc.**  
**September 6, 2009 Board Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by President Michael Meier at 5:06 P.M.

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

The minutes of the June 14, 2009 meeting were reviewed and approved as written. The Treasurer's report was given with follow-up discussion regarding the expenses of the new blue shed which to date has totaled \$19,433. Maryalice moved to accept the secretary's and treasurer's reports, seconded by Marvin and unanimously approved.

The future of the property was discussed with Toni and Michael scheduling a follow-up appointment with their lawyer to put in place the proper paperwork which will officially name German Settlement History Inc. as the beneficiary of the School House property. Legal papers will transfer Michael's Life Insurance policy to GSHI. Toni made a motion with a second by Karen B to give the President of GSHI the authority to sign the official paperwork which will transfer the property to the GSHI or if needed, to call a special meeting of the board to review the documents. This motion was unanimously approved.

Due to a possible conflict of interest with Toni and Michael remaining officers of the board after the formal intent to accept the property, it was necessary to elect a new Treasurer and President. Toni made a motion, seconded by Maryalice and unanimously approved to elect Luann Lind as the interim President and Pam Welch interim Treasurer, with their term beginning immediately at the close of this meeting. During the January annual board meeting, a more formalized election of the board will take place. It was stated that the Treasurer does not need to be a member of the board.

At the January meeting, further refinement of the bylaws will be included on the agenda. Currently there is nothing that mentions term lengths or any specific requirements for becoming a board member or officer. Michael suggested a 3 year term for elected officers, but would be subject to further bylaw revision.

Maryalice suggested a slight change to the current bylaws and were amended with unanimous vote as follows. Item #2 will now read "The directors shall meet annually in January of each year to review the activities of the previous year and to plan the coming year's activities." This change removes the statement that the annual meeting be held on or about January 1 of each year.

Item #4 of the bylaws was amended after a motion by Marvin, seconded by Toni to replace the slashes as written in the bylaws with commas to indicate that the three positions of Secretary, Treasurer and a Registered Agent may be held by separate people.

A motion was made by Gene, seconded by Marvin and unanimously agreed that the blue building would officially be called "The Machine Shed". Gene donated a lot of hours this summer working

leveling the floor of the new building, as it is now ready to display some of the farm implements. There was much discussion about how best to finish the inside walls and it was agreed that we would spend up to \$500 this fall to purchase some form of plywood and then paint the walls white. Luann made a motion, seconded by Ron to talk to a Carpenter for recommendations on the best type of material to help reinforce the squareness and structural integrity of the building. The priority that was agreed to was reinforcing the four corners and the east wall with plywood type boards 8 feet high, plus the overhang at least 8 feet deep to be later used as storage.

Work Day projects were discussed. It was agreed that with everyone's busy calendars that we would not formally schedule a work day, although as time is available, Gene will coordinate with others to finish some of the projects through the fall. 1) Additional work will be done to the earthwork on the outside of the Machine Shed, including seeding grass. 2) There is daylight showing in a few spots of the Yesterday House, so Luann will complete additional chinking as needed. The original recipe does not seem to work, so after much discussion it was agreed that we would use either mortar mix or brown <sup>qu</sup>chalk and steel wool to fill the gaps and in locations that are visible, sphagnum moss will be added. 3) Marvin noted that there are also a few spots on the outside of the building that are beginning to rot due to moisture collection and will need a bit of carpentry to repair. 4) The rolling door on the Machine Shed needs to have a sill with possibly 2 layers of 2 X 8 added for reinforcement. 5) Relocating the bell tower to a more prominent location and cementing it in place. 6) Installing the flag pole. The bell tower and flag pole locations are still being considered with a suggestion of somewhere near the Machine Shed.

Friends of Liberty School Gathering is being planned for July 10, 2010. This will be an open house, with "Finn Power" providing music for the day. More details will follow. The attendance of the Labor Day Weekend Open House was good with lots of new people visiting for the first time. Karen B and Karen J did an excellent job of cleaning the Yesterday House and displaying items within the house.

We will want to review the wording on the donation/loan paperwork for historical items that we receive. Luann mentioned a concern about loans of artifacts to GSHI regarding the status of the item once the person is deceased, or if we don't want the item anymore. Who is responsible to return to the family or pick up the item. As we collect artifacts, we do not want to either give the wrong impression or upset a family member that is not clear about the arrangement of an item being loaned or donated to GSHI. Maryalice will work on the Deed of Loan language to address the board's concerns and bring it to the January meeting for board approval.

Spirit Memorial Park update - Ron reported that the play equipment and BBQ grills are installed and have already seen a fair amount of use. A small foot bridge is the next project to be completed.

The next GSHI meeting is scheduled for Sunday January 17, 2010 at 2:00. Meeting was adjourned at 6:16 pm with a potluck dinner following the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Meier, Secretary