

German Settlement History, Inc. June 14, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Luann Lind at 1:15 P.M.

Present at the meeting were Barb Failing, Toni Meier, Jesse Rhody, Michael Meier, Pam Welch, Maryalice McHugh, Gene Meier, Karen Baumgartner, Marv Meier, Luann Lind, Karen Johnson and Dawn Meier. Visitors included Pat Swenson Marilyn Erickson, Clare Meier, LaVonne Meier, Phil Resch and Joleen Meier.

The minutes of the March 22, 2015 meeting were reviewed. Maryalice made a motion, seconded by Toni to accept the minutes as presented except with the addition of new wording regarding the process for designating who will serve on the nominating committee each year. Motion passed with unanimous approval.

The Treasurer's report was reviewed. Maryalice moved to accept the Treasurer's report as presented, seconded by Karen B. with unanimous approval.

Michael reported that the printed copies of the book Brandt's Bear written by Jim Rhody have been completed and would be picked up this week from DigiCopy in Wausau. Michael made a motion with a second by Pam that GSHI would provide a copy of the book to each of Jim's children and to each Board Member. Motion passed unanimously.

Toni reported that the Civil War Muster Out Roll that was gifted to GSHI has been copied – both front and back, and that the copy will be framed for displaying in Liberty School. The original has been properly stored to maintain the current integrity of the document.

Oral history report – Clare Meier stated that she is willing to help with conducting interviews but needs assistance with the technological part of the project. Jesse and Luann agreed to provide advice where needed. Clare and Terry Johnson plan to schedule a time when they can interview Elaine Nelson in Medford. LaVonne Meier stated that she has recently discovered a cassette tape whereby Roy Meier is being interviewed sometime in the 1980's. Once she listens to the tape, she plans to donate it to GSHI for our library. Michael has listened to the taped interview where Orville Peterson is touring the Spirit Lake area. Dawn recently received the re-worked interview of Roy Meier done by the Wisconsin Historical Society in 1979. The 6 hour interview was originally recorded on reel to reel tapes and for \$110 has since been clean-up to eliminate background noise and copied onto 6 compact discs and is also now available on flash drive. Toni will look into playing the recording during the picnic open house.

There was discussion about the proper display techniques of the friendship quilt. Due to the very fragile nature of the quilt that was made between 1933 and 1935, GSHI wishes to share it but also recognizes that sun and environment could easily have detrimental effects. Luann suggested that by using a sturdy PVC pipe, it may be able to be hung temporarily from the loft so that visitors during the open house could see it.

Since the last meeting, Pam coordinated with Oak Ridge Embroidery in Tomahawk to make the GSHI logo available for printing onto garments. Most of the board members have already received their embroidered shirts and those that have not should make arrangements with Pam or directly with the store to have a shirt embroidered to their specifications.

Gene, Jesse and Michael have researched the idea of building a ramp for access into the Yesterday House. In order to meet codes, a ramp would need to be a very complex and would visually detract from the character of the building and the grounds. Due to narrowness of the doorway, it has been decided that providing a ramp would not be feasible since a wheelchair could not pass unassisted through the doorway anyway. It was decided that the best solution may be to build a dirt ramp with a railing to allow those with limited mobility something sturdy to steady themselves as they climb the stairs into the building.

Since the fall workday, the two signs have not yet been re-installed on the Yesterday House. Jesse volunteered to install them prior to the picnic open house.

A UV Shade has been installed on the west window of Liberty School to help reduce fading of military items that are being displayed.

A workday is scheduled for July 7, 2015 from 9-12 to prepare for the open house. Flower gardens need to be weeded, an ice box which Gene donated needs to be cleaned up and there is always work to be accomplished in the Machine Shed. Everyone available to assist is encouraged to join in.

We discussed the overall success of the 11th Annual Barn Dance. As part of the treasurer's report, Pam presented a spreadsheet which displayed the historical income comparison for the past year's events. Due to heavy rain and moisture in the ground this year, parking on the lawn caused much rutting from spinning tires. For future years Luann suggested that unless it is dry, people should be discouraged from parking on the grass.

Pam suggested that ending the silent auction a bit earlier – 9:30 instead of 10:00 might encourage more participation since many people do not wish to stay late enough to see their bids all the way through. We also discussed that there continues to be late bids being submitted even after the bell rings, so board members need to be ready to remove all the bid sheets and to prevent late bids from being entered. Providing spare bags and boxes for items to be packaged at the end of the night would be useful.

There was confusion identifying the coconut and banana cream pies, so if we provide those flavors in the future, they should be well segregated from each other. The stand-up hay maze was greatly enjoyed, especially since the rain kept everyone inside and allowed the kids their own play area. Luann's two granddaughters (names?) were very helpful in setting up the hay maze and also cleaning the haymow ahead of time. GSHI will send each of them a thank you note showing our appreciation of their work (Michael?). With a motion by Maryalice and a second by Dawn with unanimous approval, Karen B. volunteered to send Gary Edinger a thank you note and \$50 gift card for his contributions with the square dance calling and teaching.

July 25 from 11-3 will be the Open House Picnic. Toni volunteered to pick-up the brats, hotdogs, buns and condiments. Karen B. and Barb will take care of preparing the drinks. Marv & Michael will cook the meat during the day of the event. Pam will staff the registration table. Other Board members are encouraged to serve as docents and to station themselves around the property and provide relief to others where needed.

The next issue of Liberty School News is expected to be published in August.

Michael introduced the topic of future planning of GSHI regarding long-term maintenance needs. He suggested that having a savings account is a good goal for any organization such as ours to attain since future needs are unpredictable. Having sufficient money to cover operating costs is too short-sighted and we need to work toward saving money for future needs. Since we currently do not have a "wish-list" of new projects we want to accomplish, building our savings account beyond the annual operating needs would be beneficial for future needs.

Two dozen 4th graders from Rib Lake School and another ten Hillbillies 4H club members and parents recently toured GSHI for a successful visit of the property.

The next GSHI Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Sunday September 27, 2015 beginning at 12:30 with a potluck lunch, immediately followed by the meeting.

Meeting adjourned with a motion by Toni second by Maryalice at 2:16.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Meier

09-19-2015