

**German Settlement History, Inc.**  
**September 27, 2015 Board of Directors Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by President Luann Lind at 1:30 p.m.

Present at the meeting were Jesse Rhody, Karen Baumgartner, Toni Meier, Pam Welch, Karen Johnson, Marv Meier, Barb Failing, Luann Lind, Dawn Meier and Gene Meier. Absent and excused was Michael Meier and Maryalice Mc Hugh. Visitors included Marilyn Erickson and Joleen Meier.

The minutes of the June 14, 2015 meeting were reviewed. Marv made a motion to accept the minutes as written with a second by Karen B. with unanimous approval.

The Treasurer's report was reviewed. A motion was made by Toni to accept the Treasurer's report as presented, second by Karen J. with unanimous approval. Pam reported that we received our first 'NSF' (non-significant funds) check at the Barn Dance this year. Pam and Toni tried multiple attempts to contact the violator with no success. Pam also mentioned that we received a donation in memory of a designated individual. As a result, we discussed the idea of providing a hard-bound 'Memorial Book' which would provide others with the opportunity to document memorial donations in honor of someone which would be recorded in the book as a permanent record. Pam will locate an appropriate book that could be utilized for this.

Luann reported on a recent visit to the Rhinelander Logging Museum by a group of homeschoolers/4-H members who commented that visiting GSHI was a much better event. They complimented our organization on providing better explanations of the various equipment, more interaction due to a 'hands-on' experience and overall more fun.

There was discussion about our social media footprint and linking our website, Facebook page, Liberty School News mailing list and GSHI membership together. If we can do a better job of providing anyone who finds us through any of our sources, we will be able to provide better messaging and networking with all of these individuals. All of our media sources should also list the other opportunities where people can find information so we can grow our support base. As the original Liberty School alumni continue to pass, it will be important to keep our membership growing and active.

Updating our membership form to include an option for Legacy Giving by providing suggestions for listing GSHI in someone's will or designating GSHI as beneficiary on investment accounts or

providing memorial designations was discussed. It was suggested that Michael will draft new language to incorporate these ideas into our membership form and fundraising efforts.

Toni reported that our books are selling well as she has filled three orders recently that came through our website.

Pam will be entering volunteer hours into the *Past Perfect* program along with handling additional administrative type duties. She has recognized that rather than doing more of the heavy lifting and manual labor with the organization, she is better suited to volunteer her time using her expertise with computer and administrative tasks. Luann noted that everyone has their strengths and unique talents and skills. It is best to utilize volunteer contributions within their specialty area and to take advantage of everyone's specialties and talents.

There was another discussion about the need to provide some sort of ramp and/or railing for at least one doorway of the Yesterday House in order to allow better access. It was agreed that we should provide standardized steps that offer a shorter rise and wider platform than what is currently on the building. Dawn will research options for a portable aluminum ramp that could be utilized when needed, rather than building a permanent wood structure that would meet accessibility standards.

Barb presented a proposal from Bill Hoffman who would like support to host a Finland Centennial in 2017. Toni made a motion, seconded by Dawn that we would support the proposal and participate in any way that we can, motion passed with unanimous approval. We agreed that we would at least lend our name to the overall idea. Barb, Karen J. and Karen B. will be our contacts with this effort.

Developing a digital photo policy especially for the scanned photos that people have given us was discussed. Karen B. noted that photographs taken after 1927 are technically copyrighted. Some organizations include a watermark on all photographs so that they can control the rights of each photo and earn money from the sale of such images. Karen B. made a motion with a second by Toni that since we are not especially concerned about making money from our photograph collection, that water marking is not necessary, but that it will be important for us to secure 'Deed of Gift' forms which grant us permission to utilize photos from family albums and other sources. Motion passed unanimously. For our best interest, we need to consider the long term use of any photos in our collection. If someone wants to use our photographs they need to give us credit.

Ground penetrating radar is the technology that is capable of determining if there is a body buried or other remnants that remain from a possible grave in a specific location. Toni

informed us that Kevin Cullen has offered his services and has the capability to do a ground search of the approximate location that “the rock” was discovered in the early 1900’s by Carl and Roy Meier at the Meier Homestead. A committee consisting of Michael, Gene, Jesse, Dawn and Marilyn Erickson will move forward with researching the site with the hope of determining the origin of the unique carving into the rock.

The nominating committee consisting of Karen J. and Luann will work together this fall to generate possible interest in new candidates for the Board of Directors. Board members each serve a five year term, with Gene and Pam reaching the end of their current five year term at the end of 2015.

Our annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday January 24, 2015 at 12:30 p.m. beginning with a potluck lunch followed by the meeting. This meeting will include the election of two Board Members and election of officers as needed.

Meeting adjourned with a motion by Marv second by Pam at 2:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Meier  
Secretary  
10-09-2015