

Spirit Historical Society, Inc.
March 20, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes
(This meeting was available on Zoom as well as
in person at the Spirit Town Hall)

The meeting was called to order by President Dawn Meier at 1:14 P.M.

Present at the meeting were Maryalice McHugh, Cheryl Pierson, Karen Baumgartner, JaNelle Nelson, Luann Lind, Dawn Meier and Mark Nyberg. Absent: Anne Marie Fries, Johanna Holliday and Dean Gilge. Guests: LaVonne Meier and Pam Welch

The minutes of the January 23, 2022 meeting were reviewed. Luann made 2 clerical corrections. Motion was made by Mark to accept the minutes as corrected, seconded by Karen, and was accepted by unanimous approval.

The Treasurer's report had been sent earlier via email to each of the Board Members for review. Maryalice moved to accept the Treasurer's report as presented, seconded by Dawn with unanimous approval. Pam noted that she is currently in the process of updating the signature cards at the bank. She also noted that the Bank is aware of the overcharge on the last order of checks and is making the appropriate adjustment. Luann will keep a debit card for the SHSI account as she will need it for the Newsletter and other items. Volunteer hours should continue to be sent to Dawn.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

1. Repairs to Yesterday House. JaNelle contacted Vivian Rhody to see if Don would be interested in doing the upstairs repairs. Vivian confirmed that Don would accept this job and will start work on the repairs to the ceiling and floor of the upstairs as soon as weather permits. Ethan Bowen has offered 10 square feet of the old boards for the project. This wood was originally painted, so LaVonne has volunteered to strip the paint for our needs and will coordinate with Ethan. The outside doors will be discussed at our June meeting after we are able to see how they survived the winter. (NOTE: LaVonne called Dawn after the meeting and is convinced that what Ethan has is not the same thing that is needed for the repairs to the Yesterday House. Dawn will need to go back and see if she can find the correct boards to do the repairs. Dawn has an old log building on her property that is starting to rot, that originally came from the same property as the Yesterday House. She will take a look to see if there is any chance that the loft of the building may have used the same type of boards. Otherwise, It'll be back to LaVonne's to continue digging through all of her out buildings in search of what her dad had saved from a similar building that he tore down years ago. But none of that can occur until more snow melts.
2. Newsletter: Luann is putting the finishing touches on the latest Newsletter. Once it gets returned from the printer, a group of volunteers will meet at the Town Hall to prepare for mailing. Pam will print the mailing labels from the Post Office database. Luann had suggested we might want to put in a list of paid members in the Newsletter in part to remind those members of who had paid currently and who had not and may have forgotten. It was suggested that instead of putting that in the Newsletter (privacy issue) that we send a renewal form every year with the annual Ballot for election of Board Members. It was also suggested that we put a Membership form on Facebook once or twice a year, highlight membership in the Newsletter and also at our events (i.e. Barn Dance, Open House/4H Fair, and Rummage Sale).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND GENERAL ORDERS

1. Barn Dance: The Barn Dance will be Sunday May 29 from 6:00-Midnight. Board Members have been asked to arrive at 5:30 p.m. to put the final touches on set up.

The Barn Dance signage will no longer enumerate how many years we have been having the dance and will simply be the Annual Barn Dance. Luann has already arranged for a DJ and for the Square Dancing, and has ordered the cakes and ice cream. Karen will get a gift card for the Square Dance caller (which will be increased to \$75). The flag raising will be at 8:00 p.m. and cake and ice cream will be served after that.

Board Members will need to be at the Welcome Table at the base of the stairs from 6:00-9:30 to keep an eye on the free will offering barrel and get our guest book signed. Pam and Dawn have offered to start out the rotation. Anne Marie, Maryalice, JaNelle and Mark will start out at the food table. There will be a donation basket at that table also. Luann has offered to make chocolate chip cookies as it seems to go over well with the younger children. Luann was going to check with Johanna about decorations and will install the sign advertising the event at the Town Hall several weeks before the dance.

There will be no silent auction this year. It was suggested that we may do just as well without the additional time and effort invested in the auction and the DJ will announce during the dance that this is our main fund raiser for the year. We can always go back to the auction next year but we all felt it was worth a try to eliminate all the extra work and coordination during the Barn Dance.

2. Landscaping: The main concern is the gravel walkway leading to the Yesterday House. JaNelle will talk with Don Rhody and see if he has any suggestions on how to make this safer. Some suggestions were to build a rock retaining wall on each side of the gravel or install some sort of railing. We hope to have this completed before our Open House in August. Other landscaping will occur as weather permits. Country Chicks and the Landscaping Committee will also coordinate planting flowers in strategic places around the Yesterday House.
3. Signs; key access; mesh hardware around foundation: Signage is in progress and will be installed when ready and weather permits. It was suggested that a lock box be installed to hold the front door key and that Board Members would have a key to the box and have access to the Yesterday House. Luann is working on covering the holes into the foundation with a mesh so that there is ventilation and to keep animals and rodents from accessing the foundation. She can put a lock box in one of those holes on either the east or west side. All agreed it was a great idea. JaNelle has stain that can be used for the wooden frames that secure the wire mesh.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Fund raising idea: Dawn and Pam suggested that SHSI have a Rummage Sale and Bake Sale at the Town Hall, and all agreed it was a wonderful idea. It was suggested that it be held just before the Fair so that the tables we set up for the Rummage Sale could then be left up for the Fair. After discussion, we have put in to reserve the Town Hall from July 30-Aug 8. The Rummage Sale would be August 4, 5 and 6. The rest of that time would be for drop off of items, setting up the sale items and clean up. JaNelle offered to lead the Bake Sale portion and Pam will lead the Rummage Sale with assistance from Cheryl.
2. Vacancies on the Board: Just a reminder that we have 2 openings for new Board Members. We should all be looking for and talking to prospective members at the Barn Dance. Dawn has created a document of what is expected of SHSI Board Member and it is attached to the Minutes as an Addendum.

3. 2022 4H Fair/Open House: The 4H Fair will be August 13 and we will finalize our plans for our Open House at our June meeting. The Fair Board has asked that a member of our Board attend their meeting on April 7. Dawn and JaNelle will attend that meeting on our behalf.

Book sales/Inventory: It was suggested that we may want to develop a book selling policy since several 'local' people have recently sent us their books asking us to add their books to our collection and begin selling them on their behalf. Luann said that it isn't a problem for her to take care of the orders when they come in. It was also suggested that we sell our books at the Rummage Sale. Since we have a large volume of books and long-term storage is an issue, we may want to lower the price of the books. We will discuss this again at our June meeting. Price County Historical Society does have an on-line ordering system that accepts credit card orders. (After the draft Minutes went out, Luann sent the following information to clarify what we take in for the sale of books.

We took in \$308 in 2019 from April through Dec. (not even a full year)

We took in \$293 in 2020

We took in \$208 in 2021

This does not figure in the extra money we take in on shipping. We charge \$7.50 for orders over \$10 (most orders are over \$10). Shipping generally costs from \$4 - \$5 each time so we are gaining a couple dollars on shipping for most orders.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Luann received 2 boxes of Spirit photos from the Zielke family and will begin scanning them as time permits. She has also received a copy of Joyce Bant's book *Culture and Continuity of Knox Mills, Wisconsin*. Maryalice will send Joyce a thank you note for her donation and if anyone would like to read it, please contact Luann as she has both the hardcopy and digital version.

The next S.H.S.I. Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 15, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. CST, at the Spirit Town Hall and will also be available virtually using the 'Zoom' platform. It was suggested that we try an evening meeting time during the week as weekends can be busy for folks, especially in the summer.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m. with a motion by JaNelle, seconded by Mark with unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryalice McHugh

Secretary

March 20, 2022