

Spirit Historical Society, Inc.
March 18, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes

(This meeting was available on Google Meet as well as in person at the Spirit Town Hall)

The meeting was called to order by President Dawn Meier at 2:06 p.m. CDT

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

Absent: JaNelle Nelson Guest: LaVonne Meier

A Motion was made by Mark to accept the proposed Agenda and seconded by Karen. It was accepted by unanimous approval.

The minutes of the January 21, 2023 meeting were reviewed. Motion was made by Karen to accept the minutes, seconded by Dean, and was accepted by unanimous approval.

The Treasurer's report had been sent earlier via email and a Motion was made by Mark to accept the Report, seconded by Dean, and was accepted by unanimous approval.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

A. MACHINE SHED

Dawn spoke with Ilmi Nelson to see if she would be willing for us to acquire (purchase, rent, or get donated) the original Brannan Creamery building for use as our machine shed. After thinking it over and discussing it with her kids, she told Dawn that she was not comfortable with the proposal due to the proximity to her renters in the house.

Karen reported on what she learned from speaking to the Price County Historical Society about their climate-controlled building and quickly learned that something of that scale was financially out of our reach.

Next, Pam reported on her research and discussions with Pete of Pinno Builders. He estimates that a pole building with a cement floor will cost between \$40 – 45 per square foot. For 20 x 30 building that would be about \$27,000 and 30 x 30 would be closer to \$40,000. For an additional 10 x 10 insulated room within the overall building that would be an extra \$3,000.

Luann volunteered to head up the project and would keep us all informed by email as things progress. Luann spoke and stated that she really wants us to have a machine shed to display our equipment and that she can put the displays together. We will make the decisions as a board. If anyone has any ideas to share on the project, send them to Luann. Pam gave Luann the information she had gathered. Luann will be planning the best way to do this within our budget, not the cheapest way. We want it done right. We have money for a 600 sq ft shed currently in the budget but we agree raising additional funds is a good idea.

Next Luann spoke and stated that she really wants us to have a machine shed to display our equipment. She volunteered to head up the project and would keep us all informed by email as things progress.

Pam made a Motion to move forward with the Machine Shed ideas and that Luann will lead the effort, keeping us informed via email.

B. NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter is ready to be sent to the printer once she makes a few tweaks to the front page to include a paragraph about requesting financial support to help us fund the machine shed. With a few updates of addresses from Pam, it should be processed and back from the printer and ready for compiling the first week in April. Pam and Dawn will folder and process the mailing.

C. IMPROVE RAMP INTO YESTERDAY HOUSE

Dean has met twice with Nathan Lind to discuss the options. Until the snow melts and they have a chance to get a better visual of the project, Nathan is estimating a 5 foot wide by 40 foot long poured cement pathway could be installed over the existing gravel and railing would be installed on both sides which would match what is there already. The estimate for now is approximately \$5,000 to complete the job and we are hopeful it will be completed in time for the Spirit Fair. The breakdown of the cost is as follows:

\$1,500 concrete

\$400 fill (can we use existing fill for base? Or does it need to be replaced?)

\$1,000 labor

\$2,000 railing

Total estimate: \$4,900

Pam made a Motion, seconded by Luann, to move forward with the project to shore up the ramp and walkway with Dean serving as the liaison with Nathan Lind who will complete the work.

Additional thoughts and conversations on the project:

- Will visit site again when snow melts and re-evaluate the job.
- The question of what will we do about the walkway from house to new Machine Shed was raised. Since this will be built after the shed is completed, we should plan for this as we complete the plans for the ramp. Machine Shed will go to the east of the house.
- Karen raised the concern of will the ramp need to be ADA approved? Dean said that is addressed by the pitch of the ramp.
- Mark raised the question of whether concrete is the best material and how long will it last? Dean said that concrete is the most effective and since we don't shovel or salt during winter, it should last longer. We can use the existing rock to pack the sides down. Railing will be placed into the cement.
- Luann said she has enough boards for the connecting walkway that we could use so they can be used.
- All needs to be treated to be water resistant.

D. LONG TERM STORAGE OF ARCHIVAL RECORDS

Dawn spoke with Linda Mittlestadt who is the Archivist at the Wisconsin Historical Society located in Ashland and deals with the northern part of the state. We are one of dozens of similar historical societies that are dealing with the same issue of storage of records. State of WI would not be interested in any of our paper collections and that the best approach for us would be to develop a collections policy. We need a good inventory of everything in our possession to determine what we have and what we need to keep. A collections committee consisting of Luann, Karen, Pam and Maryalice will begin reviewing what we currently have and what we will want to preserve. Much of this work will better determine how much storage space we need to reserve within the machine shed to house our records and books.

Additional thoughts:

- We need to keep only what is significant to our area and our mission statement. Be sure it is unique and has historical significance. Make sure we can explain it. It is clear that we cannot keep or take everything.
- 95% of our photos are digital. Original photos are returned to the owners.
- We need to digitize any records that we want to save and that can be digitized and then discard the originals.
- Luann is going through what she currently has and thinks she can downsize to one filing cabinet.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND GENERAL ORDERS

A. BARN DANCE

Luann had a list of assignments and tasks needed for the event:

Decorate haymow, set up tables: Johanna

1. Distribute posters to local business: Karen-Phillips, Cheryl-Tomahawk, Dean-Prentice and Ogema, Mark-Medford
2. Advertising radio and newspapers: JaNelle
3. Bake cookies (at least 600): Pam and Dawn
4. Set-up coffee and lemonade: Karen and Dawn
5. Buy ice: Dean
6. Buy supplies as determined by Luann: Dawn
7. Get items for silent auction/chance drawing: all board members will be responsible for 2 items (decent purchased item, homemade item or gift basket)
8. Organize and arrange items for sale: Luann
9. Greeters at the day: Pam and Dawn
10. Serve refreshments: Mark, Dean, Maryalice and Johanna
11. Clean up at midnight: Mark
12. There was another long list of items such as securing the DJ, making posters, flag raising, purchase ice cream, etc. that Luann said that she would do on her own.

B. CLEAN UP DAY

Clean-Up Day for Yesterday House will be May 24 9:00-2:00. Lots of people will be needed and Pam will provide lunch.

OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There will be an Open House at the Yesterday House after the Memorial Day ceremony.

4H Fair is on August 23, 2023.

We still have an open seat on the Board which we can fill at any time. Think about someone who would really add to our group.

Luann was recently offered the original alter from the Our Savior's Lutheran Church aka Scandinavian Lutheran Church near the cemetery. We are unsure whether we want to accept the donation and need more information before we can decide. This might be a great practice for the collections committee to help us determine what we should collect.

LaVonne Meier (only guest at the meeting) mentioned that she wants to help us save our windows by installing acrylic panels over the outside of the windows similar to what they have done at Spirit United Methodist Church. This has proven to greatly reduce the weathering of the putty and stain and has greatly increased the lifespan of the windows. LaVonne and Dawn will take a closer look at the options once the snow melts. LaVonne would re-putty the windows and also cut similar pieces for the doors that could be installed in the winter to help protect them from the negative effects of the sun and elements. Without doing something to protect our original investment, we will be faced with having to re-do the windows and doors as they are starting to show signs of decomposition.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, June 25, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. CDT

Pam Motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Karen, and was accepted by unanimous approval at 3:44 p.m. CDT.

Respectfully submitted by:

Maryalice McHugh, Secretary (with the help of Dawn Meier and Anne Marie Fries)

ADDENDUM

Based on the below information provided by Luann, it is imperative that the entire board make a decision of commitment SOON on the building of a machine shed, as opposed to waiting for the June meeting as it was decided at our March meeting. Both Pam and I have had independent conversations with Luann regarding the specifics about the building and the financials as well as having a discussion with our VP JaNelle about how to move forward with this.

We currently have approximately \$42,000 in our account. The first priority for these funds is the completion of the Yesterday House ramp for an estimate of \$5,000.

The reasoning behind the rush to make this commitment to the building of the shed has to do with the probable increase of costs for the materials if we go into the fall and especially if we wait until 2024. Luann is working with Nathan to come up with ways to reduce the projected cost of the \$30,500 building. And we believe there is the potential to save more material costs if Nathan can utilize the lumber being offered by LaVonne. This building will not have the separate room for our book storage, as discussed although the space will be available for us to build at a later time. The walls of the building will also not be insulated but that could be done after the initial construction. It also does not include a roof overhang.

In looking at the overall cost of the site prep, gravel, concrete slab (most likely appx. \$8000) a reduced cost of the construction of the building as mentioned in Luann's email (shorter walls, smaller door, etc.) and we hope a further savings if the donated lumber is incorporated, Pam feels it will be close but that we can do this at this time.

At the Clean Up Day on May 24, 2023, Luann presented to those of us present the Contract for the Machine Shed. The contract required 2 signatures. Dean and Luann were asked to be the signers and will advise us on the progress.