

GORDON-WASCOTT HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING

FRIDAY MARCH 1ST, 2024- 6PM

VIA ZOOM

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by President Jan Jenson. Present was President Jan Jenson, Vice President Doug MacDonald, Treasurer Barb Fiandt and Secretary Becky Keith. Also present was Board member and gift shop coordinator Susan Seningan and Museum Supervisor Lisa Hall.

2. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 2023 MEETING MINUTES AND EMAIL VOTES

Because there are times it is necessary to seek approval for spending between meetings we have recently made decisions via email vote. Becky Keith made a motion to approve the meeting minutes and email votes. Doug MacDonald seconded the motion and the motion carried.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT- BARB FIANDT

Barb Fiandt reports we currently have \$23,300 in the GWHS account. The Amick Park fund account has \$8000. Becky Keith made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and Doug MacDonald seconded the motion. The motion carried.

4. MEMBERSHIP, GUESTS AND MAJOR DONORS, 2023- JAN JENSON

A total of 450 guests logged into the guest book in 2023. That number compares to approximately 300 in 2022. We now have 133 lifetime members and 31 annual members. There are 26 major donors, with more stepping up to the plate annually. Lisa Hall keeps a master mailing list and we did talk about including more local business owners in our membership mailing. In May the mailings will be sent out requesting donations. Hopefully there will be more major donors.

5. GIFT SHOP COORDINATORS REPORT- SUSAN SENINGAN

Susan Seningan recognized Lisa Hall for outstanding work doing inventory this past year. Her hard work made it easier to know what is selling and order more. Ron and Susan will order more whistles and trains for the children. Becky Keith ordered more shirts (this was one of the items voted on via email). There is a sufficient amount of caps, mugs and books. Lisa would like to get everything out of the attic and use the space on the main level as storage. The stairs to the attic are difficult to maneuver. We will have someone reinforce the handrail on the stairs.

6. HISTORIANS REPORT- BRIAN FINSTAD

Brian met with Jim Omstad who was doing a graduate study project on old cabins in the area that had a significant relevance and no longer are in use. The Gibson cabin and Meffert House are two he was interested in.

Brian also talked about the fact that the Douglas County Historical Society is doing an exhibition on women. Isabella LaPrairie was Sarah Gordon-Dinley's mother and they are both being recognized.

7. MUSEUM COMMITTEE CHAIR AND SUPERVISORS REPORTS- BARB FIANDT AND LISA HALL

Barb has been advertising locally in Hayward, Spooner and Minong for two new hires to help with the Museum and Depot this summer. Ann is going to work again but it will be her final year. Rick and Tay will return again and they will let us know when they will be available.

There is a squirrel in the ceiling of the museum. Recently it appears there may be electrical issues. There are two holes in the ceiling and we discussed going ahead to replace the tiles. The grid remains intact. We will move forward and purchase the tiles from Menards.

Lisa ordered mailing labels and is keeping up with our google business profile. Lisa also sent out audio cassettes and VHS cassettes to be converted to a flash drive. They will be played at both the depot and the museum this summer. Lisa hopes they will be ready by Memorial weekend. We may need to add another electrical outlet or two. This will be discussed with Luke who is working on his to do list.

8. AMICK HISTORIAL PARK UPDATE- JAN JENSON, BRIAN FINSTAD & DOUG MACDONALD

Jan has been in touch with the folks in charge of the grant money and we do not have to return any of the money because we didn't get it all spent by the deadline. We did purchase the four benches for the park and they are being stored in Barbs garage. The sign was made but has a teepee vs a wigwam on it. This will be changed. Jan applied for another grant however was informed they rarely fund any organization two consecutive years.

The Presbyterian Church may give us a \$10,000 donation toward the Amick park. Mattie Meffert was an organist at the church for 30 years. Her grandson wanted to give a gift to commemorate his grandmother and her contribution to the community. This is pending.

Brian discussed the Wisconsin Historical Society marker. Evidently the wording must be changed per the state review. The WHS review committee will come back with proposed wording. Brian said they are excited about the subject matter.

Brian spoke with Kevin Hoyt- who is an expert at building wigwams- about building one for the Amick Park. He quoted Brian about \$1000 to build it which is very reasonable given the amount of time it takes. Conversation ensued about ways to bring the public into the building project, or possibly as observers during the building. A motion was made by Becky to proceed with a \$1000 wigwam project, and it was seconded by Brian. The motion carried.

Doug spoke with Steve Balscik about grading the park. Steve has been ill and unable to finish the project but has intentions to get it done within the next 3-4 weeks. Brian also suggested we share costs with the Bird Sanctuary when they rent a post setter. We can use it to set the posts given to us from the Bird Sanctuary as dividers to mark and protect the Park. The posts are currently being stored on Becky's property.

9. NEW SIGN FOR MUSEUM-

We discussed working with Badger Signs to come up with a new sign to note the dates the museum and depot will be open this summer. Using removable letters was mentioned and our Lumberjack logo. Jan Jenson made a motion to work with Badger up to \$500 and Barb Fiandt seconded the motion. The motion carried.

10. JUNE 7TH ANNUAL MEETING AND PROGRAM-ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Brian Finstad will check with James Omstad to see if he would present at the annual program. James did his graduate research on cabins no longer used that were historically recognized. He is currently doing presentations on his findings. People are interested in the Gibson cabin as it is on the North Country Trail and easy to access. Brian Finstad and Susan Seningen will communicate with James and decide on details. We discussed having the board meeting at 4PM and the presentation at 6pm. Jan Jenson will work on advertising and we will include the presentation information along with the fundraising/ membership letter to be mailed out in May.

11. APPROVE DONATION OF ENCYCLOPEDIAS AND DESK TO WASCOTT HISTORICAL PARK-

Jan Jenson ran this by Wascott park folks and they agreed to accept the donation. Barb Fiandt did check with the person who donated the desk and they were fine with giving it to Wascott. Doug MacDonald made a motion to proceed with the donation to the Wascott Park and Brian Finstad seconded the motion. The motion carried.

12. NEW FUNDRAISING EVENT OPTIONS (IN LIEU OF ICE CREAM SOCIAL DURING GGND) AND OTHERS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

We all acknowledge a sense of loss not doing the ice cream social as we have for over 30 years. New ideas were discussed including the option of a pie/cake/baked good auction. We will call it our "First Annual Pie and Dessert Auction". We will also have a silent auction of goods. Brian Finstad told us the Friends of the Bird Sanctuary have agreed to donate a Fire Tower Package for our silent auction. It will include an Airbnb \$350 gift certificate, framed photo and other gifts. Total value of \$500. We will plan on music again and hopefully Becky's niece Esther June will have time to be present and perform for us again. We will also ask Pete and Mora McCusker and Steve Socala to play. We discussed other ideas for the silent auction and beverages such as water and lemonade for purchase. We will plan this event at the same time as in the past- 10-4, with the pie and dessert auction happening at noon. Becky Keith will make an attempt as the auctioneer. The silent auction could be wrapped up at 3, right after the parade. We also discussed

having a winter festival/event, and will continue to think about that. We discussed possibly setting a date for this event in late January or very early February.

13. SUMMER CALENDER (MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND EVENTS, MONTHLY PRESENTATIONS, GGND, SEPTEMBER APPRECIATION EVENT)

Brian Finstad will be doing his 10 AM walking tour on Saturday May 25th. We will cook brats and hot dogs, have yard games for the kids. Elyse and Heath Jensen will hold an open house of their historic Meffert House from 1-3 on Sunday May 26th. Monday Memorial day, Doug MacDonald will lead a historical tour of the Cemetery. We did discuss the September major donor appreciation event on Labor Day weekend, Saturday September 7th. We will have "The Letter M" playing music for the event from 4-7.

14. 2024 BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE (JUNE 7TH, SEPTEMBER 6TH, DECEMBER 6TH)

We discussed the possible need to meet more frequently especially as we have many events coming up. We will schedule zoom or additional meetings if and when needed. We scheduled a zoom meeting for May 3rd at 6pm, since we have more planning to do for our summer activities.

15. MUSEUM/DEPOT MAINTENANCE UPDATE- BRIAN

Luke Schneidenbach has his list of to dos and will be getting to them soon. Brian will touch base with him.

16. OTHER BUSINESS-

NONE

17. ADJOURNE-

Becky Keith made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Doug MacDonald seconded it. The motion carried. Meeting was adjourned.