

GORDON-WASCOTT HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 1ST, 2023-6 PM

GORDON TOWN HALL

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL-

The meeting was called to order by President Jan Jenson. Present were President Jan Benson, Treasurer Barb Fandt, and Secretary Becky Keith. Also present were Board members Phil See, Susan Warring, Gift Shop Coordinator Susan Seningen, Museum Supervisor Lisa Hall and Rick Scott. Absent were Brian Finstad and Doug MacDonald.

2. APPROVAL OF JUNE 2, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

There were two amendments to be made. The word "Brain" was used instead of "Brian" and the number \$19,000 should be replaced with \$22,000. Phil See made the motion to approve the amended minutes with the two corrections, and Becky Keith seconded the motion. The motion carried.

3. TREASURERS REPORT- BARB-

The GWHS is financially stable at the present time. Evidently there was a payment made toward the T-shirts purchased from Hidden Bay Graphics. It is unclear where this came from. Barb will try to find out. Becky Keith made a motion to approve the minutes and Susan Seningen seconded it. The motion carried.

4. GIFT SHOP COORDINATORS REPORT- SUSAN

The t-shirt, books and hats are selling well. Rick and Lisa continue to organize and Lisa plans on doing inventory on Labor Day Weekend. Rick talked about possibly obtaining books from an author Mr. Lowendowski; who published a book about Father Gordon. There was also talk of obtaining train whistles and hats for purchase for children. Great idea!

Jan is keeping track of guests who visit the museum and depot and will tally numbers at the end of the year.

5. HISTORIANS REPORT- BRIAN-

Not present.

6. MUSEUM COMMITTEE CHAIR AND SUPERVISOR'S REPORTS- BARB AND LISA

Barb has had calls from several people who are interested in genealogy. She has met with a couple of them. We discussed the possibility of borrowing some of Doug's family (Antoine Gordon) artifacts/ heirlooms to put on display at the museum over Memorial Weekend. We will talk to Doug about this.

Lisa will work on the idea of photos on flash drive to display on monitors in the museum. Lisa also mentioned asking the public about yearbooks which would be great to have.

7. "PUT-PUT" DONATION UPDATE-RICK-

Rick is interested in heading a restoration process. Rick suggests creating a fundraising campaign to see if there is community interest in restoring the "Put-Put". A shed would be necessary to

store it. If Chris Kivi from Solon is interested in parting with it there could be ways to acknowledge him as the owner. It has been donated to us. Concerns were voiced about cost, and Rick says it's a "slow train going on this project".

8. AMICK HISTORICAL PARK UPDATE- JAN, BRIAN & DOUG

The project is proceeding a bit slower than hoped for. The tree removal is finished. Next step is grading. The plan was to have Steve Balcik doing the grading. We are waiting to see how he is doing and if he will be up to it. Jan is busy filing grant reports. The historical marker grant was submitted by Jan, there was a \$250 filing fee. Per the original grant we needed to spend \$10,000 by the end of the year or pay some of the money back. Discussion ensued regarding ordering the Amick sign, with design recognizing the significance of the Native (indigenous) people in establishing our town. Ideas were suggested using birch bark, wigwams, beaver drawings/ art work on the sign. Phil made a motion that Jan will pursue this, and Barb seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Jan will also check with Kismet design benches and ideas. A motion was made by Susan to spend up to \$800 for four benches for the park. Becky seconded the motion and the motion carried.

9. REVIEW OF GORDON GOOD NEIGHBOR DAYS ICE CREAM SOCIAL AND EVENTS- BECKY ET ALL

Overall the event went well. We ran out of ice cream. We did discuss for next year using smaller waffle cones, and adding more signage emphasizing this is a fundraising event (not a free event). Donations were down about \$200 from 2022. We discussed how many people no longer carry cash, so checking into obtaining Square, Venmo, Apple pay or PayPal to process credit cards might be a timely option. The music was amazing and the lines of folks waiting to cool down with ice cream flowed well. Lots of good help was available!

10. HISTORIC GAS STATION VARIANCE AND RELOCATION-

ICO was going to tear the old building down. It was a catalog ordered building constructed by the Butler Manufacturing Co. The prefabricated building was constructed in 1937 and known as Art Nelsons Shell Station. Douglas County approved a variance that will allow the building to be moved from its current location to downtown Gordon. It will be used as an ice cream/gift shop by John Sime and Julie Phelps. Plans are underway for it to be relocated in a couple of weeks.

11. GWHS 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION POSTPONED-

It's been a busy year for the GWHS! The group will refocus on a 2028 50th Anniversary celebration instead.

12. OTHER BUSINESS-

The museum sign needs to be replaced. The option of having Badger State, Kismet or the Fab Lab at Northwoods High school create a new sign was discussed. We discussed creating a logo- possibly a lumberjack. Rick will check into the Fab Lab.

September 11th and 13th will be deck staining at the depot. The deck on the museum needs to be replaced soon. The chairs at the Whalen house need to be removed and taken to the dump. The table can stay.

October 4th is Heritage Highlights Day at the Bird Sanctuary. Either Brian or Jan will attend and say a few words.

We also made a new list of projects to be finished before spring.

1. Purchase and replace both screen doors on museum with wood screen doors (as old fashioned looking as possible).
2. Replace bottom step of stairs at Depot and threshold by entrance door.
3. Fix/replace wood rot on corners of museum fascia, also on bell tower structure in front of museum.
4. Replace/fix fluorescent light fixtures in back room of museum and install new bulbs (have some in the attic).
5. Fix/replace railing on stairway to attic at museum.
6. Hang large Soo Line Railroad Depot sign on exterior, west side of depot.

13. NEXT MEETING –Friday December 1st, 6PM

14. ADJOURN-

Becky made a motion to adjourn and Phil seconded it. The motion carried.