

## Brooksville Historical Society

September 11, 2019

### Minutes

Present were: Earl Clifford, Abbie McMillen, Ellen Harford, Lorraine Dyer, Julie Cleveland, Connie Henkel, Will Hotchkiss, Josh Snow, Bob Bakeman and Debbie Grimmig

President Earl Clifford opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary's Report – Secretary Debbie Grimmig distributed the minutes of the 8/14/19 regular meeting and the 8/25/19 annual membership meeting. The minutes of the annual meeting will need to be approved by the general membership, however documentation of the vote for the new slate of officers may be needed immediately for the banks to recognize Ellen Harford as new Treasurer. The motion was made by Abbie McMillen and seconded by Connie Henkel to approve the 8/14/19 minutes. The motion was made by Abbie McMillen and seconded by Ellen Harford to approve the minutes of the 8/25/19 annual membership meeting.

Treasurer's Report – Final amount for the food sales and the two yard sales is \$1,700. \$843 was received from individual donations. Visitors to the museum have been very positive about the museum and as a result have been very generous. More people are coming to the Museum and are staying longer and are more apt to engage in conversations with the docents. Because of on-going work at the Museum, it was decided to keep the porta-potty through the end of October. There was some discussion about changing the hours of the Museum or adding another day to the schedule. Adding another day will mean needing additional docents and the public is now familiar with the summer hours. There was no decision to change hours, but this may be revisited in the future. A docent training will be scheduled for the spring. Items to be included will be use of the various resources (cemetery books, BHS publications) to assist with visitors' questions, more information about exhibits, understanding of items in the inventory and using the computer to search for an item.

### Old Business

- A. Feedback/Follow-ups from the Annual Meeting – Feedback was very positive. Good turnout and the speaker and the program topic were very interesting. Elizabeth Clifford and Gayle Clifford did posters and flyers. The sandwich boards at the Town House and Museum were also effective. Debbie Grimmig will work with Abbie McMillen on updating the list of board members and terms and the change to the By-laws and will distribute packets at the next meeting.
- B. Cleanout of Yard Sale Items – Debbie Grimmig will contact Audrey Peasley to find out if the Keepers Society is interested in the left-over yard sale items. Some items will be retained, such as the wooden file cabinets and linens that may be used in the exhibits or other items with historical value. If the Keepers have no use for the items, then the leftovers will be donated to Goodwill in Ellsworth.
- C. Historic Section of the Brooksville Comprehensive Plan – Dick Gregor e-mailed a draft copy of the historic section of the Comprehensive Plan. The draft does not need approval by the Historical Society, but individuals may forward comments to Dick Gregor who edited this section for the Comp Plan Committee. Please share comments with Abbie McMillen as well.

- D. Fall Program – Possibly sharing photos from Claire Grindle. Lorraine Dyer will follow up with her on this. Lorraine Dyer borrowed information including letters and photos from Murray Gray which need to be scanned into the BHS computer. The copier at the Museum has a scanning feature. Debbie Grimmig and Abbie McMillen will figure out how to scan and save the information to the computer; to then be followed up with a scanning party. No decisions were made about a fall program.
- E. Other – Museum
  - 1. Maintenance Plan – Bob Bakeman suggested that we develop a maintenance plan for painting and other maintenance so that the building is always in good shape.
  - 2. Windows – We need to proceed with fixing the windows. It may be more feasible to replace existing windows with new ones. Matthew Brothers may be a good source for new windows.
  - 3. Side Door – Bob Bakeman installed a piece of aluminum to help eliminate the water leakage into the basement. It needs a non-stick pad as the aluminum will get slick in the winter. Earl Clifford will check at Mardens for something to cover the aluminum.
  - 4. Sawdust piles possibly from insects – Please mark areas of sawdust with chalk or sticky notes before sweeping up to help track down the source of the problem. It may be carpenter ants or powder post beetles. We may need to do a borax spray to get rid of insects.
  - 5. Bait traps – Need to be refilled with rodent control material and distributed around the museum. Debbie Grimmig found a source of D-con should the bait traps be ineffective.
  - 6. The humidity in the archive room is still not optimal despite the installation of a dehumidifier. Lorraine Dyer made the motion to authorize Dick Gregor to purchase a larger dehumidifier and to hook it up into the drainage system to control the humidity. Motion seconded by Bob Bakeman. Motion passed. Earl Clifford will contact Dick Gregor about this authorization for a new humidifier.

#### New Business

- A. Schedule Date for Heavy Lifting at the Museum – The Museum Exhibit Committee needs assistance with moving some glass display cabinets to allow for easy access to the doll house as well as bringing in some items from the storage container. We will try for a Saturday or Sunday in early October. In the meantime, items from the yard sale need to be boxed up and ready to move to the Keepers or to Goodwill.
- B. Other
  - 1. Acquisitions – Robert Carter donated the desk from Russell Condon’s store. It needs to be cleaned and put back together. It is very big, but may be used for the Robert McCloskey exhibit. Perhaps Joe Adam would be willing to restore it to its original condition (not like new but its historical condition). Lorraine Dyer was contacted by someone who may be interested in donating some sculptures, including a ship model. She is unsure of the size of the items, but will contact the potential donor and ask for pictures.
  - 2. History of Norumbega – We do not have a history of this area of Brooksville. Lorraine Dyer will contact someone who may be doing a history of this community. If a written history does not exist, then perhaps we can make an inquiry through an article in the Fall Newsletter.

3. Abbie McMillen provided a Museum tour to two relatives of Thomas Tapley who were enthusiastic about the museum and publications. If the Tapley family is interested, the Brooksville Historical Society Archives could serve as a depository for preserving Tapley related information (letters, pictures, histories, diaries, etc.). If not originals then copies.
- C. Next Meeting – October 9, 2019 at 4:30 pm at the Town House.