

North Brunswick Historical Society

Minutes of the Public Meeting Monday, March 23, 2015

Present: Michael Hritz, President; Connie Adamo, Vice President; Richard Liguori, Treasurer; Nansi Krauss, Secretary, Janice Larkin, Trustee.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by President Michael Hritz.

Treasurer's Report:

Rich Liguori presented a summary financial statement which shows an ending balance in all accounts of \$13,952.54. Debits include \$100.00 for the post office box, \$350.00 for completion of the "Happy" video. Credits included \$125.00 for dues collected and \$40 in sales of the North Brunswick picture book.

New Business:

- Michael Hritz received our business certificate and updated all the information online and paid the \$25 fee.
- Michael and Rich Liguori will file the Society's 990 EZ form for the IRS.
- Michael suggested an email blast and a flier to solicit memberships to the Society.

Old Business

- Some additional filming has been done to the Gala video. Michael will follow up with the videographer and editor to glean additional insights about the status of the video.

Project Updates:

- **The Pulda Farm**

The Township of North Brunswick has adopted a resolution naming the Historical Society as partners in the restoration of the house on the property. The Township has paid for the removal of the hazardous waste in the attic and basement of the house, and hired HMR Architects to prepare a report regarding the structural integrity of the house, along with estimates about the restoration of various areas of the home. HMR has made note that there are a great number of original features in the house – the molding, the windows, door hardware, etc. Additionally, HMR suggests the removal of the 1970's front porch in order to reveal more original features, such as the pillars in the front of the house.

The Township has also authorized, and will provide the funding for, a community garden on the property, which is starting this spring, as well as access to Farrington Lake in the future. .

Alexander Greenwood of the NJ Barn Company will come out to the property to review the barns and outbuildings and provide us with a proposal to prepare a plan which will outline which buildings should be rehabilitated and which are best used as a materials resource.

- **Grants**

Michael discussed the NJ Historical Preservation Grant. This grant is a matching funds grant. Michael discussed with the group that perhaps the best use of funds could be repainting the exterior to generate public interest in the property, and make it an obvious sign of progress. The group discussed that we would be comfortable using \$7,500 and it was agreed that we would give Michael some latitude with that figure based on the assessment he expects to receive from HMR in the coming days.

Michael discussed the Middlesex County grant. Its due date is in June, and he has great confidence that we will be able to apply for that grant as well.

Michael discussed a program sponsored by Whole Foods, "Nickels for Non-profits". Non-profits can apply to have a portion of one day's profits in the store donated to the non-profit. Organizations can apply only once for this funding. The group agrees that this is an important avenue to explore further.

- **Historical Markers**

Nansi Krauss reported that after much research, the historical markers of our choosing are very expensive. Michael took a picture of a new kind of historical marker made of heavy duty playground grade plastic in East Brunswick. Aesthetically, it still has the attributes we are looking for as a group. Janice will contact East Brunswick to get some information about costs and vendors.

- **Website/Facebook**

Nansi asked the group for approval to spend a reasonable sum on web hosting and domain name registration, and the group was in agreement. She hopes to get a logo designed in the near term as well. Nansi will use some of the pictures published in the North Brunswick book for the website and Facebook page. She suggested that we ultimately may want a website with e-commerce opportunities – to take donations, memberships, purchase "swag" and perhaps even process fees related to Gala registration.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 pm with a motion by Rich Liguori and a second by Connie Adamo.