

North Brunswick Historical Society, Inc.

Meeting Minutes of the Board of Trustees Tuesday, February 14, 2023

Attendees: Michael Hritz, Rich Liguori, Nansi Krauss, Janice Larkin

Meeting called to order at 6:08 pm.

General Business

A motion by Mr. Liguori and seconded by Ms. Larkin was made to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2020 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Holiday Campaign: The 2020 Holiday Campaign had more than a dozen donors and netted \$2,340.

Treasurer's Report:

- Savings account was closed in June, 2022 and balance of \$503.78 transferred to the checking account.
- Checking account balance: \$37,181.30
 - o This includes \$855 earmarked for the digital conversion of the Young Adult Drama Group shows current on VHS. Therefore, the actual balance is \$36,326.30.
 - o 2021 Holiday Campaign netted \$1,050.
 - o Kaplan Companies made a \$1,000 to the Society.
 - o Expenses since last meeting include renewal of post office box and website.

NJHT Preservation Grant and National Register Nomination:

We are still engaged with the NJ Historic Trust Grant award from 2018 for \$28,500. \$21,375 was earmarked for the preservation plan for the house and \$7,125 is for HMR Architects to prepare and complete our National Historic Site application. Michael has the detailed binder which articulates the work necessary to restore the house, in phases, and an overall synopsis. Essentially, it's \$500,000 for a "basic" restoration, and \$750,000 for a "full" restoration. These figures are on par with a similar project in South Brunswick.

The NJ Historic Trust still owes us the money we paid HMR. The NJ Historic Trust pays for that when our application is accepted. Currently, the application was submitted and returned for additional information and clarification. Based on this feedback, HMR has submitted a quote of \$2,500 to complete the application and resubmit it.

A motion was made by Mr. Liguori, seconded by Ms. Larkin. All voted in favor to accept the HMR quote and proceed accordingly.

One item of note from the feedback was that we currently refer to the house as the The John Buckelew House. Current conventional wisdom dictates that we add his wife, Mary, to the official name. In the future, the house will be named The John and Mary Buckelew House.

Janice suggested we engage one of the two new grant writers employed by The Township to look for and pursue additional opportunities for funding.

The Archives

Sadly, The Historical Society lost the vast majority of our archives in the flood that decimated the Municipal Building. Luckily, some of the most valuable items were spared, but countless pictures and documents were completely destroyed. The remaining items need to be sorted once again in a similar fashion to the last great sorting project. The remaining items need to be compared to the database to determine how we might reach out to groups/entities that donated items in an attempt to replace as much as possible.

North Brunswick Woman's Club Rose Garden:

The Historical Society funded the planting a rose garden at the Municipal Building in tribute to North Brunswick Woman's Club in honor of their 50th anniversary. Plantings are in place, just some hardscaping is left to complete. Michael has an idea for a large rock upon which a plaque can be affixed to acknowledge both the Women's Club and The Historical Society for posterity.

The Gala:

Our next gala, the 245th Anniversary Gala, is slated for 2024. We need to explore venue options as we are not returning to The Heldrich.

New Business:

The Georges Road Veterans Memorial re-dedication is our next public facing project. There is no date on the current memorial. We will contact the original monument company to try to determine the date. Additionally, there is possibly a picture from the original dedication at the VFW in Milltown which could provide some information. The Historical Society will fund a plaque to affix to the monument which will indicate the original dedication date and the rededication date.

Meeting adjourned at 7:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Nansi Krauss, Secretary.