North Brunswick Historical Society, Inc.

Meeting Minutes of the Board of Trustees
Thursday, February 25, 2021

Attendees: Michael Hritz, Rich Liguori, Nansi Krauss, Janice Larkin, Pete Clark, and Elaine Amodio

Meeting called to order at 5:05 pm via GoToMeeting

Election of Officers

Ms. Larkin makes a motion to nominate the existing slate of Officers for re-election. This motion was seconded by Mr. Liguori and passed unanimously. The slate of Officers is:

President: Michael Hritz
Vice President: Connie Adamo
Treasurer: Rich Liguori
Secretary: Nansi Krauss
Trustee: Janice Larkin

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:

59991.52	**Beginning balance**
-22,483.89	HMR Architects
2,340.00	Holiday campaign
-1000	Theater archive donation
-300.00	Princeton Online
-88.00	USPS/postage
-134.00	USPS/PO Box
-33.00	NJ Filing fee
100.00	2020 dues
-5.00	transfer to savings
38387.63	**TOTAL**
38,387.63	Bank balance, 2/25/21
0.00	Difference

- Savings: ($500.00)

We renewed the post office box, Princeton Online, and other items as noted.

The Historical; Society still has an outstanding balance of $5,424 for our share of a grant from The State of New Jersey which will bring our total contribution to approximately $42,000.

240th Anniversary Gala:

The Historical Society had agreed to donate $1,000 to both the Women's Club for the creation of a rose garden at the Municipal Building and to the North Brunswick Adult Drama Group for the creation of a 50th Anniversary musical archive project. The Women's Club has chosen Amato's to perform the work and the estimate has come in at $1,500. The NBADG's cost for the musical archive project was $1,494. Ms. Krauss made a motion that the Historical Society fund the additional cost for both organizations. The motion was seconded by Mr. Clark and passed unanimously.

NJHT Preservation Grant

NJ Historic Trust Grant Award: $21,375 + $7,125 = $28,500 total project cost. Preservation Plan for the Buckelew House at The Pulda Farm is complete and the Register of National Historic Places nomination is in the final phase as the State of NJ has granted their approval. HMR Architects has been paid $26,748.89 to date, approximately 97% of the cost of this work. Mr. Hritz showed the binder HMR Architects has prepared. It's too voluminous to email so Mr. Hritz is exploring other options to make it available to the membership.

HMR Architects estimates the entire rehab project will cost $750,000 and broke that down into short term, medium term, and long term projects. The next projects slated for the Buckelew House are:

- Chimney Repair. This will enable a new furnace to be installed and heat brought into the structure to replace the original coal burning furnace.
- Natural gas to be run to the structure to feed the new furnace.

Potable water and electricity have been connected to the structure previously.

Mr. Hritz clarified that the Historical Site designation will ne submitted and ultimately, granted, in the name of the Township of North Brunswick as they are the owner of the site.

The Pulda Farm

New walking trails that total nearly one-mile total have been developed on the site by The Township during the fall of 2020. Mayor Womack will formally introduce this new asset to the community in spring of 2021. This will bring many more residents to the site and will likely to continue to build interest in the Buckelew House. The site is teeming with wildlife and a boon for those interested in bird watching. As a Park Ranger, Mr. Clark indicated more residents are using the property and did express concerns that residents should carry cell phones with them in case of emergency as parts of the trail is somewhat remote.

The Township of North Brunswick has acquired the adjacent property which includes the Buckelew family cemetery. This new asset will require extensive rehabilitation, but is an exciting addition to this historical site. Mr. Hritz is in discussions with various stakeholders about possibly amending the application for the National Historic Sites to include this new asset.

Founder's Day

Councilwoman Amanda Guadagnino has begum an effort for a Township Founder's Day celebration. Currently, there are three contests underway: Photo, arts and crafts, and logo design. These contests are being administered by the Township Parks, Recreation, and Community Services. Councilwoman Guadagnino did reach out to Mr. Hritz as she launched this effort. Mr. Clark expressed interest in joining the planning committee as a representative of the Historical Society and will pursue that.

New Business/ Comments for the Good of the Order

Mr. Clark expressed interest in renewing a tradition from North Brunswick Township High School (NBTHS) in which notable Township women are acknowledged and recognized annually and their names added to an existing plaque. These women must have made an impact on the community and van be awarded posthumously. Mr. Hritz inquired about the selection criteria and asked for a list of those already selected. Mr. Clark indicated this information is on the NBTHS principal's archive and he will pursue obtaining that information.

Mr. Clark suggested that during Women's History Month, he would like to see notable North Brunswick women acknowledged on TV12's regular news slides.

Mr. Hritz reminded the group that in eight years, the Township will celebrate it's 250th Anniversary. He shared that a 250th Anniversary is known as a Sestercentennial. - To express 2½ in Latin it would be expressed as "half-three". The term relates to being halfway [from the second] to the third integer. In Latin this is "Sestertius" which is a contraction of semis (halfway) tertius (third)—hence Sestercentennial. The group was thankful for this information.

A motion was made by Ms. Larkin and seconded by Mr. Liguori to conclude the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:41 pm

Respectfully submitted by Nansi Krauss, Secretary.