Old Mission Peninsula Historical Society Minutes

Thursday January 2, 2020 6:00 p.m.

Attendance: signed in:

Amy and Brad Lyman, Laura and Dean Johnson, Connie Sargent, Janet and Frank Kidd, Barb and Dennis Hanson, Anne Griffiths, Niki Subkowski, Jim Hall, Jim Bramer, and Patti and Rudy Rudoph.

Amy also saw: Joann Cole, Ellen Kerr, Steve Lewis, Ann and Gerry Swaney, David Warned, Judith and Kennard Weaver, and Barbara Wunsch.

This is the first time the OMPHS has held their meeting in the Peninsula Community Library. We are to be out by 8 pm.

**Business Meeting** called to order by Amy Lyman Vice President, at 6 p.m.

**Previous Minutes** of November 7 approval moved by Barb Hanson, seconded by Kennard Weaver. Passed.

**Treasurer’s Report** given by Ellen Kerr

Savings 2060.83 Checking 15,260.11

Checking balance includes 10,899 in the lighthouse fund.  This money came from Friends of the Mission Point Lighthouse and is designated to be spent on the lighthouse.

**Old Business**

1.       Reach Out to farm Families: Amy reviewed that Tim Carroll is looking for farm families from the Old Mission Peninsula to tell their stories so they can be written down and placed in the History room at the Community Library. Karen Rieser and John Scarbrough to work with school on this. Volunteers who wish to help interview farm families should contact Tim Carroll.

2.       An idea mentioned is to teach children at school how to interview people.

3.       OMPHS is considering a program during the summer for resorters, visitors and community.  If you are interested, contact John Scarbrough.

4.       Liability Insurance. Ellen Kerr has not received a bill for it.

**New Business**

Amy thanked everyone for a wonderful Christmas potluck that we had in December.

Nikki Sobkowski wanted us to know that Peninsula community Library is applying for the Michigan Library Association Award in the category Rural Library of the Year. They are asking several people to write letters of support and one is from our organization for this nomination. Subkowski moved and Judy Weaver seconded to support this.  Vote passed unanimously. Ann Swaney will be writing a letter on behalf of the Historical Society to support his grant.

**Committee Reports:**

**Executive Board and President:** There was no Executive Board meeting in November or December. Next meeting January 30 at John’s house 3 pm.

Please see minutes from Township Board Special Meeting, November 19, 2019. Also read minutes from December 17 Joint Township Board and Parks Committee meeting. [www.peninsulatownship.org](http://www.peninsulatownship.org)

**Township Newsletter:** John submitted an article Dec. 9

**Bowers Harbor Vineyard** winery managers met Dec. 17 with Pres John Scarbrough and Tom Obrecht to brainstorm ideas and activities for fundraising for Old Mission Historical Society.  Further discussion will be at the January Executive Board meeting.

**Log Church:** John met with Dennos Museum Executive Director Craig Hedley at the Log Church Dec. 19. Mr. Hedley is an expert in museum display and will meet with the Exec Committee, as well as the Log Church Committee members in February to discuss everyone’s ideas. The Township is interested in sprucing up our historic sites for the 150th Lighthouse anniversary this year. Mr. Hedley can share his expertise, help us clarify our goals and lend credibility to any proposal we make to the Township Board.

**Dougherty House:** Connie Sargent reported that Patrick Sullivan, reporter from Northern Express interviewed Bill Cole, Chris Rieser, Barb Hansen and Connie Sargent for an article about the Dougherty Mission House. The article was to go to print tonight and come out, January 5, 2020. She also mentioned they are looking for volunteers to help by being a docent or a greeter at the DH. Please contact Connie.

**Membership:** Ellen Kerr and Chris Rieser ask that you continue to invite your friends and neighbors. Applications are available on our website and at each meeting.

**Lighthouse Group** Laura Johnson reported that she and Chris Rieser are working with an administrative team at the township.  They are working on projects to utilize the donation from Friends of the Lighthouse concentrating on historically correct shutters. They know the previous design from an old photograph of the lighthouse  FYI: the LH group meets 9:30 a.m. each Tuesday morning. Open to the public.

This year will be the **150th anniversary** for the Mission Point Lighthouse and there will be events to celebrate that.  It will take place in August 7-8. Anne Griffiths has a plaque to honor Jerome Pratt the first lighthouse keeper.

Log Church: Amy will obtain information later this month from John Scarbrough when he returns regarding his meeting and consultation with Director Craig Hedley from the Dennos Museum to pursue ideas for the log church. The last time it was updated was in the late 1980’s and we have $3,000.00 to use for updating it. A group from the OMPHS and Log Church Committee visited the Omena Museum. They also have ideas to share. Chris Rieser has met with the township and they are aware that the Historical Society feels there is a need to update the church.

Hessler Log Cabin: Phyllis Cooley and Laura Johnson are co-chairs. There will be a spring clean-up and they will need help. Please contact Laura if you can help with winter inspections.

**Log Cabin Day** Amy reported it is officially the last Sunday in June. They will be looking for help. The first planning meeting will be mid-February and includes a light supper. New members welcome!

Archives and Newsletter: Ann Swaney, No report.

Memorial Committee: There are 4 beautiful replica ornaments for sale and the money will go into a Memorial fund. The cost is 4 ornaments for $35.00 includes the Lighthouse, the Dougherty Mission House, the Replica log church and the Hessler log cabin. Reach out to Ellen Kerr with ideas.  Benches will be purchased from the Dougherty Boys who will build them for spring installation.

Website: Barb Berthelsen wants pictures! You can send emails and cards after her recent back surgery. She is presently in Florida for the winter.

**Program Committee:** Judy Weaver and Ann Swaneyhanded out the future planned programs to June 4th. The next program is **February 6, 2020**: History of the Great Lakes Maritime Academy with Rear Admiral Jerry Achenbach, Superintendent Great Lakes Maritime Academy.

Hospitality: Karen Rieser is head of Hospitality. Amy Lyman provided tonight’s refreshments.

**Tree Planting Committee** Jim Hall reported they planted 50 new trees and have 11 dedicated memorial trees for a total of 634 trees and 247 dedicated trees. When asked where they were, Jim reported the trees are from Center Road at the base of the Peninsula to the lighthouse. Smokey Hollow, and around the library, Old Mission Rd.  He also thanked Dean Johnson who uses his auger to make the holes. Contact Laura or Jim if interested. Additionally, mulching around the base of the trees may take place during the year.

**Thank you, Jane Boursaw** for Old Mission Gazette coverage & news of our meeting and the speaker tonight.

Adjournment:Moved by Barb Hansen and seconded by Kennard Weaver at. Passed unanimously.Meeting was adjourned by Amy Lyman, Vice President at 6:29.

Please note that there was standing room only in the Community room at the Library for the power point and video program by **Chris Roxborough on Great Lake Shipwrecks** and it was enjoyed by everyone.  He had many pictures of wrecks along with many stories of diving them.  It was estimated there were **160 people** and the room hold 169. People were also standing and sitting on the floor.  Some people who arrived late did not enter the room.

Also be aware, we need to set up chairs before the meeting and stack chairs after the meeting in the community Room. Thank you to those who took the time to set up and clean up afterwards.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie A Sargent - temporary secretary in place of Karen and Chris Rieser.

UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

**Executive Board** meeting will be held Jan 30 @ 3 pm

February 6 – 6:30 p.m OMPHS meeting. Program on Maritime Academy 6:30 -7:30. Coffee, cookies and Visit. The Library closes at 8 pm so we need to be out by then.

There will be planning for Log Cabin Day February 13 (Thursday) at Ellen Kerr’s home. Planning from 5-to 6p.m. RED supper for Valentine’s Day from 6 till fun is done. **PLEASE RSVP Ellen Kerr.**