

## OMPHS MINUTES May 4, 2023

President Nikki Sobkowski called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. 18 members and 3 guests attended.

Dean Francis gave some detail on the Treasurer's report. He noted some changes in the amounts for Restricted Funds and presented an excellent document showing past budgets versus actual expenses. Based on those figures, he proposed to adopt a new budget for the coming year. Rudy Rudolph moved that we adopt the budget and Ken Weaver seconded the motion, which was then passed.

### **Old Business**

The proposal from the Lighthouse Keepers Association for our supporting a grant for signage and a viewing station at Lighthouse Park has been withdrawn.

### **New Business**

**Officer Nominations** President Sobkowski reported that Tom Dalluge is chairing a Nominating Committee. The offices up for election this year are President, and Vice-President. The Secretary and Treasurer will continue their two year terms.

**Replica Church** Karen Rieser reported that the new church displays are almost installed. There will be an Open House there on Sunday, May 21, from 11-3. Karen Rieser and Grace Rudd are planning that.

**Program** Programs have been completed for the year and some new ideas have been presented for next year. The Legion Hall is reserved for our spring potluck dinner in June.

**Log Cabin Day** This will take place at Lighthouse Park Sunday, June 25, from 10 until 3. Former long-time Chair, Laura Johnson, has provided us with contact lists and records. We will feature the poet, Jim Ribby, and the Herzberger Family Band. Most major functions have been allotted chairs; there are still openings for volunteers. All revenues from the Mission Point Lighthouse Tours for that day will go to our treasury. The Hessler Log Cabin will be open for that day. As is our tradition, The Dougherty House and the Replica Church in Old Mission village will be open from 12-4 on the same day.

Following our business meeting, Judy Weaver introduced Dave Taghon, Founder and long-time Director of the Empire Area Museum. Both Dave and his parents were born in Empire. He gave an excellent program on that facility, which now has four buildings and has been open 52 years. Dave began telling us about the events which shaped the village's history. First, the wreck of the Empire State sidewheeler which went aground in about 1850 off the shore of what is now Empire. Later came the village of Norway Town, south of the current Empire Village. Then the Empire Lumber Company had a heyday from about 1880-1910. Last, there was an Empire Air Force base established in 1950 as part of the Cold War DEW (Distant Early Warning System). Then Mr. Taghon showed us a short video about the museum and its current contents. He and his wife and partner in this endeavor, Diane, answered many questions. Some of their responses included good ideas other similar historical organizations might follow. They have a Century

Club for those who donate more than \$100 each year. They have fireproof safes for archives. They celebrate an annual Heritage Day open to the community. Admission is by donation.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Weaver

Secretary