

Iola Historical Society

Board Meeting Minutes, October 28, 2013

The meeting was called to order by President Cliff Mishler @ 5:55 pm.

Present: Cliff Mishler, Lyle Mork, Stella Strand, Greg Loescher, Tom Fucik and John Bertelson

Absent: Doug Watson, (one vacancy)

Treasurer's report

1. Tom indicated that the results from the Taste of Norway are not yet complete, with more numbers coming in.
2. Greg said that the costs for the violinists at the T.O.N. are being covered by the Chamber of Commerce.
3. Tom mentioned the need for a 2014 budget meeting next month once all of the numbers have been finalized.
4. Motion to approve the report for September: Greg, second by John. Motion carried.

Secretary's report

1. Motion to approve the September 30, 2013 meeting minutes: Tom, second by Greg. Motion carried.

Discussions

1. Cliff amended his request for the use of the \$25,000 Maynard Stromberg donation. The request needs to be approved by the board once more information on plans and costs are known.
 - a. Instead of the \$5,000 to the materials resource center, Cliff would like to use up to \$12,500. Even at that amount, another \$2,000 to \$3,000 will be needed to complete the project, and a fall appeal will be considered.
 - b. Cliff withdrew his request of designating \$2,500 for the caboose roof project. Instead of building a roof over the caboose, Cliff suggested removing the body of the caboose from the wheel base, and moving it to the storage building for repairs over this winter.
 - c. Cliff wants to keep the \$1,000 designation for the purchase of DVD's and TV's for the different buildings.
2. Greg brought up the following items.
 - a. The Dr. Loope marker is ready to install. A visit to the site will be made tomorrow. The dedication will be during one of the Badger's away games, possibly November 25th. May get some UW hats, etc.
 - b. The Christmas parade will be ending in the Machine Shed this year. We are just providing the building, with other groups in charge of set up and clean up.
 - c. Suggests beginning the planning for next year's Taste of Norway in January.
 - d. Sterling is considering Saturday July 26th for the auction next year.
3. John reported the completion of the spraying for powder post beetles under the depot. Very little damage was seen. Tom provided the chemical. Cliff mentioned the next step is to install 2'x6' panels as a skirt around the bottom of the depot. It's important to leave enough gaps to allow for good air circulation under the depot.
4. John mentioned that a base should be installed under the corn-shucker at the Taste of Norway next year. It was kind of tippy when kids were using it.

6:20pm, motion to adjourn: Stella, second by Tom. Motion carried.

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General Meeting Minutes, October 28, 2013

Call to order by President Cliff Mishler @ 6:30 pm. There were twenty-two people in attendance.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

Secretary's report

Motion to approve the September 30, 2013 meeting minutes: Joel Edler, second by Lola May Dalland. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report

Tom mentioned that the Taste of Norway numbers are still coming in. A total of \$244.30 was the Historical Society's share of the 50% split with the Sons of Norway. Motion to approve the September financial statements: Lola May Dalland, second by Martha Cook. Motion carried.

Lee Halverson introduced Merlin Mayer and Bob Thompson for the program for the month featuring woodcarving, and how Lee Nelson influenced Merlin.

- About 26 years ago, Merlin was looking into taxidermy as a hobby after he retired. Lee Nelson was at Merlin's house setting up a TDS Lifeline when he suggested that Merlin try woodcarving. After Lee passed away, Merlin received Lee's unfinished work. Some of Lee's carvings that Merlin finished were a band carving, a wood duck and a fish wall hanging. Merlin may donate some of Lee's work to the IHS sometime down the road.
- Merlin went to a vocational school in Waupaca for his woodcarving training. His first one was a bird carving, which now looks rather primitive compared to his later works. The most difficult part was getting the proportions correct, since his first carving was too big, too square, etc. He still uses it as a guide for his current work.
- Merlin started with patterns before moving onto original work. His originals started by working with burls, which are tree knots. He showed a blue bird carving on a burl bowl.
- Merlin had several carvings on display during his talk. The unpainted ones will be completed this winter.
- Merlin discussed the different types of carvings.
 - Chip carving is good for surface detail. He showed a bible made out of basswood.
 - Realistic carving examples include birds and ducks. Want them to look "life like".
 - Stylized carving is more free form.
- Some of Merlin's carvings will be on display at a show on April 27th next year at Chrystal Falls supper club in New London.
- Merlin went on to discuss some woodcarving tips.
 - It's important to work from detailed pictures.
 - Different tools are used for different types of wood. Determining wood properties are hardness, grain, etc.
 - The best finishes are made with stains and waxes. Varnishes are not as good.
 - Oil paints are good to work with due to their ease of blending.
 - Sometimes problems occur with cracking due to pressure buildup in the wood. Sometimes cutting the heart out of the wood helps. Repairs can be made with putty.
 - Pine wood from the Iola area has a hard grain. It difficult to get fine detail with this type of wood.
- Nearly all of Merlin's samples on display were blue ribbon winners. He doesn't consider himself to be a master carver compared to others around the world. In this country it takes three blue ribbons to move up a class, and it takes 4 class levels to get to be a master. It is much more difficult to get to this level in Europe.

Bob Thomson talked about his experiences in carving.

- Bob moved up to the area after retirement and took up the hobby of carving with both Merlin and Lee. They both were great teachers.
- He discussed acanthus carving, which is similar to rosemaling.
- A bread board was his first project.

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- He passed around a couple books on Norwegian folk art, and then showed a pattern for an “angle board”. Men would carve it for their prospective bride. It is used to remove water out of linens. It is an example of chip carving.

Lee Halverson discussed his work with carvings.

- Lee started in October with both Merlin and Bob. They call their group the “chippers and sippers”; since Bob’s homemade wine is often part of their sessions.
- Lee showed a butternut wood sample as an example of carving and burning. This style works well for him.
- Cottonwood bark is a soft type of wood, and it’s easy to work with. Lee showed a bobble-head dog that he made for a granddaughter.
- Several books and magazines were shown as examples of where to find patterns.
- As for tools, Lee mentioned that many are specialized depending of what type of carving is to be done. Merlin added that a pencil is one of the most important tools. A caliper is the next most important tool, since it is necessary in order to get proportions correct.

A number of questions were asked by the audience.

- Joel Edler asked if Merlin could work from a photo of Vidar to make a scale replica. Merlin said he was willing to try, and then he used the statue of the Indian to point out key reference points for carving a replica.
- Joanna Rheingans suggested that the carvers demonstrate at next year’s Taste of Norway, which everyone thought was a good idea.
- Joel asked if the removal of the burl hurts a tree. Merlin replied that it usually doesn’t. He went on to say that burls have different grains, and that it’s fun to see what’s in each burl.

The regular meeting then commenced.

- Cliff reported that Marcia Helgeson had donated a dress from Henrietta Weiman.
- Lyle mentioned that the annual Waupaca County Historical Society think tank was going to meet at the depot in Waupaca. Some of the topics include the following.
 - Review of the work at the depot. A lot of work has been completed and it’s open for tours, but there is still work to be done.
 - A deep fried French toast breakfast will be served. It is often referred to as a “Soo Line breakfast”.
 - The new London Historical Society reports to have 40 members. As a comparison, our membership includes 130 people. Lyle mentioned that networking with the area business community has been a great help to us.
 - There will be about seventeen people representing the different historical societies in the area.
- Cliff led the follow up for the Taste of Norway.
 - Lola May Dalland reported that not much coffee was sold, and she didn’t think cookies were needed next year. The pastries that were not sold went to the food pantry and area churches.
 - Martha Cook reported that sales of the Lefse went well. The initial 15 lbs. sold quickly, with her and Bob Stamstad having to make more. They would like a longer table next year.
 - Greg reported on the following.
 - The gift & craft show went well. The tent location was much better this year.
 - The Chrystal Café and The Taste of Elegance areas went well too.
 - The violinists would like to come back next year.
 - Cliff mentioned that he received many positive comments, and he expects more growth for next year. He plans to bring in more tents and also redesign the traffic flow for the area.
 - John Bertelson mentioned that the Central Wisconsin Model A club out of Wisconsin Rapids may be able to bring some old cars next year. Cliff will find room for them.
 - Cliff mentioned the need for docents in all of the buildings next year.
 - Cliff reported the loss of five chairs during this year’s event. They belong to the Car Show and the school, which makes it even more important that we keep better track of them next year.

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- Cliff discussed the upcoming projects for this winter. Some of the Maynard Stromberg donation and other non-restricted funds will be used for this work; however more donations will probably be needed.
 - Lyle is sorting the newspapers that will be kept in the resource center.
 - Charlie Wasrud and his son will be working on the resource center.
 - The caboose will be removed from its wheelbase and moved to the east end of the storage building. Charlie and his son will be doing most of the restoration.
 - Cliff and Charlie Thompson will be starting work on the R.I. Anderson exhibit in the machine shed.
 - A wall will be built in the museum by the piano in order to set up more displays. Our meeting area will probably be relocated to the fire station.
- Cliff went through the tentative dates for next year's events.
 - April 12, 2014, Saturday, Spaghetti Luncheon fundraiser
 - May 17, 2014, Saturday, Country Schools of Waupaca Co. summer display kickoff, special program by Joan Paulson and co-author (video record)
 - June 7, 2014, Saturday, Iola Historic Village & Museum opens for the season. Machine Shed dedication special event. Pig roast?
 - June 22, 2014, Sunday, 30th annual Iola Strawberry Fest & Antique Appraisal Fair
 - July 26, 2014, Saturday, Sterling Benefit/Donation Auction fundraiser
 - August 30, 2014, Saturday, Iola Historic Village & Museum closes for the season.
 - October 4, 2014, Saturday, 5th annual Taste of Norway & Lost Arts Fair with Chamber of Commerce Craft & Gift Show
- Stella Strand suggested that Evelyn Danielson be interviewed soon for any information she has on Iola history, since her health is failing. Cliff will check with Doug about setting up a videotaping session.
- Cliff reported that Lyle had finished painting the interior of the museum.

Annual elections

- Cliff asked for a motion that the board position of "Historian" be officially created as a voting member. This would increase the size of the board from 7 to 8 members, including the emeritus position which we do allow to vote. Lee made the motion, which was seconded by Lola May Dalland. Tom was concerned about having an even number of voters on the board. It wouldn't be an issue at this time with Lyle possibly being both historian and vice president while only having one vote. Lyle mentioned that the by-laws should be checked to see if this was a board decision or if the membership had to approve too. Lee withdrew the motion, and no action was taken at this time.
- Lyle made a motion to reelect Doug Watson to another term. Charlie Thompson seconded the motion, which was then approved.
- Martha Cook made a motion to elect Lyle Mork to the vacant vice president position. Sue Halverson seconded the motion, which was then approved.

Upcoming events.

- Greg displayed the marker for Dr. Loope. The formal dedication is now planned for November 23rd.
- Greg mentioned that the annual Christmas parade is scheduled for December 7th. The parade will end in the Machine Shed, where the children will have the opportunity to meet Santa. Toys for Tots will also be collected there, with a drawing for donors following. David Doll will provide entertainment for the children in the museum. The library appreciates the move of the events to the Historical Society.
- Monday, December 9; IHS Annual Potluck Christmas Banquet @ The Millstone, 5:30pm

8:31pm, motion to adjourn: Sharon Peterson seconded by Stella Strand. Motion carried.

Minutes recorded by Secretary, John Bertelson