

Iola Historical Society

Board Meeting Minutes, April 26, 2021

Board members Cliff, Lee, Tom, Bonny, Charlie T., Sarah and John present. Cliff called the meeting to order at 5:31pm.

Motion made to accept the meeting minutes from March, Bonny, second by Sarah. Motion Passed.

Tom gave the Treasurer's report. Not much activity. He did adjust deferred revenue for membership dues. A \$500 donation was made for the historical marker program from a resident of Iola who supports the effort.

Motion made to accept the Treasurer's report, Charlie T., second by Lee. Motion Passed.

Cliff had a few items to go over,

- Cliff and Lee gave a tour to Adam Fleischer of Columbus, OH. His father's is related to the Warren family, who were pioneer settlers in our area in the 1860's or 1870's. They were harness makers and blacksmiths. Lee said it was a very nice visit, and Adam purchased a From the Indian Land book by Malcolm Rosholt. Adam is looking for an original "Indian Lands" book, and Charlie T. would be willing to make a spare copy available.
- John Jensen is returning from his winter home in Texas and will bring the organ and rocking chair him and his wife donated last fall. Plans are to put them in a display in the front storage area we plan to develop some day. Major floor work and the installation of heating is needed in that area first.
- A group of 20 to 25 home-schoolers plan to visit our facilities 1:30pm Wednesday May 19. Need cleanup before. Five docents are needed ... Charlie T., Cliff and Lee plan to be there.
- Gloria Briquelet responded to the mystery photo in the Spring 2021 Window newsletter, as did Ron & Marlene Netzler too. The photo on page 4 is actually from the Dakotas and was probably taken on a trip from someone in our area, maybe to see family. The Dakotas is an area with many Norwegian settlers too.
- Need to come up with a workday schedule for inside cleaning. The high school student cleanup of the grounds will be May 5th.
- Would like a scaled-down Strawberry Fest this year as an initial way to get back into our events after the very challenging year of covid in 2020. Limited menu, with bar-b-que sandwiches, chips, strawberry shortcake, and soda. Skip the antique appraisal fair. Greg will work on publicity. Ask the Boy Scouts to sell the soda.
- Volunteers are needed as docents for the Saturday open houses --- June through August.
- The next American Legion meeting in the Machine Shed will include several groups from around Waupaca Co.

Charlie T. had a couple items to cover,

- He is still planning to attend the May 22 parade in Waupaca honoring their Fire Department's 150th year. Charlie will trailer our 1912 Waterous Pumper in the parade.
- He asked if we could add a "Wanted" section in the Windows newsletter for items we would like to have in our collection. For example, we have a couple copies of Rosholt's photograph book, but we need volume 1 to complete. Cliff is ok with the idea, as was the board.

Lee brought up plans for the pathways for our grounds. Tom has much experience with pathways from his golf course management days, so a discussion was held on the details. Tom will ask Brian Waters to lend us his skid loader for the work. Tom suggests a 5 ½ ft wide gravel path, about 3 or 4 inches deep. Wait 2 or 3 years for the gravel to settle before considering blacktop.

Tom had a few items to cover,

- He has applied for our raffle license.
- SSL certificate for our website – Google is moving towards requiring it for all internet search inquiries, so Tom will work with someone to find the best price (\$10 a year?).
- Internet coverage – boosting the signal from the museum is not enough to reach the machine shed, so will need to explore other options. If underground wiring is needed, then we may want to consider getting rid of extra electrical meters on our other buildings too. We have four meters now for our facilities.
- High school prom this weekend – theme is "Hollywood". Tom has some old theater lighting on the 3rd floor of the mill he plans to lend, but afterwards he would like it moved to the front storage area of the museum.

Board meeting adjourned 6:29pm.

Membership Meeting Minutes, April 26, 2021

Cliff opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:37pm. Twelve people were present.

Donna Hooker motioned to accept the March meeting minutes, Sue Halverson second, passed

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Tom gave the financial report. Self-audit was completed, adjustments were made and the YTD values are correct. Greg Loescher motioned to accept, Lee Halverson second ... motion approved.

Cliff had a few items to go over,

- He has been in contact with Caroline Adams regarding a historical marker for Riverside Cemetery.
- The donations from John Jensen (see above). John lives in Chippewa Falls and winters in Texas. Related to the Clara Jensen family.
- Home school tour (see above).
- Mystery photo (see above). Cliff passed out a copy of a nice letter from Gloria Briquet to the IHS members regarding the photos. Gloria was a past director and VP for our organization.
- Donna Hooker is in charge of setting up the spring cleanup day. She plans 9am on Thursday May 13.
- Bonny is taking over Sharon Peterson's duties for setting up food at our events. Sharon has passed on her notes.
 - For Strawberry fest, seven people volunteered to help with a scaled down event this year. No raffle is planned for it. Cliff, Greg & Doug will work on the promotional poster. Plan for Sunday June 27, 11am to 2pm. Cliff will verify the time before posters will be printed.
 - Motion to go ahead with the Strawberry Fest this year, Lee, second by Tom. Motion passed.
- Saturday open houses June through August, noon until 3pm weekly. Need docents. Masks recommended. Hand-sanitizer would be available.
- The Iola, Manawa, Marion and New London American Legion groups plan to meet in the Machine Shed for their next meeting.

Donna Hooker mentioned that the Iola High School alumni (The Hilltoppers) dinner is planned for July 24 at the Car Show grounds.

Charlie Thompson mentioned that on June 5th, the Manawa Historical Society will be dedicating a new building. He has loaned an antique John Deere tractor sign for it, and encourages people to visit the site. The family who ran Caroline Implement has donated a lot of artifacts to the Manawa organization. Ray Arendt donated a red single blade plow to our historical society. Cliff also mentioned that Ray has a rather interesting wrench collection.

Greg Loescher said that May 26 is planned for marker #18 dedication (Cliff Thompson) at the new patio of the Crystal Café. Greg will confirm the time as 1pm. Greg also mentioned that this Friday (April 30) is the national historical marker day. Greg will post photos.

Meeting adjourned 7:12pm

Lee's after-meeting program involved using a newly acquired projector with a mounted digital camera, and audience members were invited to bring items to talk about as they were displayed on the TV. The system worked very well.

Lee displayed the front cover of his 1962 I-S high school sports award banquet program. In it was the signature of the featured speaker for that night ... NFL Hall of Fame Quarterback Bart Starr.

Charlie T. displayed an early photo of his great-grandparents. Lee demonstrated how the projector could zoom in and out on the object.

Tom displayed some old photos donated by Stella Strand ... downtown Iola, zoomed in on a dog looking out a window ... stump-puller at the park in Iola ... Wipf logging camp ... wagons made by Adolph Hansen (Charlie said he would take the wagon photos if no one else was interested).

Greg displayed something he found at the ski hill chalet that needed some repairs. It was a framed sign-in list with results from the 6th Annual Ski Jump Tournament in 1914. Many names were from outside our area.

Lee introduced a special visitor from Racine, his sister Rita. They grew up near country road P off Hwy 49. Their mom sent coffee and sugar to relatives in Norway, and in return, the relatives sent back knit caps for the kids. The hats were put in a shadow box for display, and Rita brought it along. She also had a 1947 photo of her and Lee. Their older brother Don was not in it.

Cliff was very interested in the history of Liberia growing up. An area called Bogue's Woods, near his hometown in SW Michigan, used to be a station in the Underground Railroad that helped slaves flee to Canada during the Civil War era. During one of the many coin shows Cliff has attended, he happened across a piece of scrimshaw ..., which is something sailors did to pass the time by carving into whalebone. Cliff's artifact was a very detailed carving of a ship that had a Liberian flag on it ... although as far as he knew, Liberia did not have any whaleboats.

Program ended at 7:45pm