

Minutes of the Fort LeBoeuf Historical Society General Meeting  
October 24, 2019

Meeting called to order followed by Pledge of Allegiance.

Introduced new member Rich Arthur. Rich has lived in the area for 5 years.

Minutes from the September 26<sup>th</sup> meeting were read. One change noted regarding the main entrance step at the Eagle Hotel. Step was not repaired due to it being historic.

Treasurer's report given by Cathy Krall. Discussion took place to clarify exact breakdown of expenses for the gift shop.

Judson House - Last month were made aware of need for dehumidifiers due to mold and moisture. The board purchased two dehumidifiers under the emergency clause from Amazon. These are being emptied every day and can already notice the difference in the house. Heidi is going to look into the cost of the shades needed to block out the sun and will present it at the November board meeting. The funds raised from the pierogi sale were for the Judson house. Minutes did not clearly state this fund-raiser was specifically for the shades. WICU and Erie Yesterday were at the Judson House on Friday October 18<sup>th</sup>.

Museum – We had good representation at the George Washington Symposium in Mars, PA on October 10<sup>th</sup>. We were pleased to have Leon as a featured speaker and Jim, Don Pearce and Cindy Kreider also attended. Fort LeBoeuf was featured in the Smithsonian Magazine. Jim has a copy and will get another to archive. The forge class was full and another one is scheduled for December 7<sup>th</sup>. We are still getting calls to schedule tours this fall. Jim received a \$250 donation from a professor in Washington state for the great tour.

Eagle Hotel - trim was painted and front windows re-glazed and painted. We were advised by the painter one of the window casings in window well needs repaired. We will look into this. The painting was done through a 50/50 matching grant from Preservation Erie through the Waterford Borough at a cost of \$2550 and we received a check for \$1250. We were pleased with the work from Campbell Painting. We will meet on Sunday morning at 10 am at the Eagle to set the Christmas trees in place.

George Washington Park - The Waterford Water Authority has turned the water off at no charge for the off months instead of having to pay a minimum fee. Will start up again in May.

The Fort LeBoeuf Center is officially ours. Cathy Krall and Judy Nelson went to the closing last Friday (Oct 18<sup>th</sup>). Funds from this year's fund raisers (Waterford Days, Golf Outing, Purse Bingo and an individual donation) were allocated for the purchase. The \$40,000 in the checking account has not been touched. Our monthly payment is \$309.22. We wrote them a check for \$16,434.32 and an additional check for \$386 for building

insurance for 1 year. The \$16,434 included 20% down payment, appraisal fees, and taxes for the balance of the year. An appointment will be set up to have the first floor listed as tax free for non-profit and only pay taxes on the upstairs apartment. Taxes are \$1600. The former tenant has left, and the apartment is ready to rent. The Shield's did not receive the last month's rent, and were left with a water bill, gas and electric charges and had to clean the apartment. A walk-through was done by Kathy Williams prior to closing. The current renter on the first floor has started moving out and has till October 31<sup>st</sup> although he would not sign needed paperwork. We will start working on the interior at that time. We have \$1500 to cover materials. We also need artificial Christmas trees to decorate the center if anyone has one to donate.

Witches Tea - Made approximately \$700. First session had 10 guests, 26 at the 2<sup>nd</sup> session and only 4 on Sunday. Will most likely go with 2 sessions next time.

Golf Outing netted \$3575 this year. Purse bingo \$2023 with another one scheduled for February 8<sup>th</sup> at the American Legion. We only need to purchase a couple of large purses and the rest will be profit as we have everything left from prior. Chinese auction basket items still needed.

We are having Boofest this Friday, Saturday and Sunday including candlelight tours of the Judson House all three days. This is sure to be a festive event and kid friendly with nothing too scary. Joann is leading the walks on Friday and Saturday only starting at the back of the Judson House and is looking for tour guides. Gene dressed as George Washington will be there on Friday evening. (Tours are \$3.00, walks are \$5.00) The museum will be open the entire time for tours and refreshments of cider, doughnuts, and cookies.

We will also be handing out candy for Halloween at the FLB Center, Judson House and Museum.

Colonial Christmas will be held the weekend after Thanksgiving. We need lots of volunteer help for the weekend. The Historical Society is selling luminaries 5 for \$5.00. This tradition is well received by the community. We are also selling 28-inch Douglas Fir fresh wreaths with choice of bow for \$28.00. Orders for both due by November 15<sup>th</sup>. Wreaths will be ready Thanksgiving week. We make \$5.00 on each wreath. More information on Colonial Christmas weekend will be given at the November holiday dinner on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

ECGRA gave out the Mission Main Street grant at the Judson House. Waterford Borough received \$249,000 which is actually half a million. We will apply for some of this money when paperwork is ready.

Third reading of Slate of Officers was read. There were no nominations from the floor.

Motion made by Trish to accept as read, seconded by Heidi. Motion passed. Officers will be installed next month at the holiday dinner at Sugar N'Spice.

We have decided to have a John Burns (Scottish poet) birthday dinner at the American Legion on January 25<sup>th</sup>. Haggis, Cock'a Leeky Soup and other specialty foods will be served. Kathy Williams explained how the event works and will be preparing the food. Doors open at 5pm, dinner at 6. Cost is \$40 each or \$75 for a couple. There will also be live entertainment. Volunteers needed.

Other business: Cathy reminded members to have checks made out correctly to read: Fort LeBoeuf Historical Society as the bank will not accept improperly written checks. We will be getting a hand stamp to make this easier.

John Chizmar sold a large amount of Boscov shopping passes, turning in \$160.

January through April meetings will be held at the FLB Center. We will return to the museum for meetings in May 2020.

Motion made to adjourn meeting at 7:55 by Trish, seconded by Jim.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Simcheck