



# Friends of Saxonia House, Inc.

F.O.S.H. Board Meeting

Apr 15, 2024

6:00 PM, ZOOM Platform

**Attending:** Ed Ritger, Alan Pape, Greg Zahn, Fred Klessig, Rhonda Hare, Jim Dieringer, Jon Scott, Scott Peschke, Alison Witt-Janssen

Congratulations! Ed's proposal for property tax exemption status was accepted! We are now tax exempt from paying property tax, and it should be an ongoing status.

## I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Alan Pape at 6:13 pm.

## II. Approval of minutes

The minutes of the Feb 5, 2024 Board meeting had already been previously approved via email and posted on our website. The only change was the date of this April meeting, which was changed due to Easter. Fred motioned to accept and Jon seconded, motion carried.

## III. Treasurers' Report

Greg reported \$60,622 in checking and Flipcause combined. A motion to approve this report was made by Greg and seconded by Alison. Motion carried.

Greg then presented a budget for what is coming up; discussion followed regarding architects and excavators/permits needed. Each item on the [proposed budget](#) (besides the yearly port-john and insurance) was discussed and voted upon as follows:

1. Structural Assessment by Beane Engineering, \$8,000. Alison motioned to approve and Fred seconded. This acknowledges that Beane will work with the Historical Society to make sure we are within guidelines. Motion carried.

2. Topo Survey, Wetland Delineation, and Project Management by M Squared Engineering, and Zoning Variance through Town of Farmington, \$7,350. Alison moved to approve and Ed seconded. Motion carried.
3. Bailey Norwegian House removal and transportation, \$10,000. Greg motioned to approve and Jon seconded, Motion carried. PLEASE NOTE: This vote did NOT include a decision on exactly where on our property we will set up the Bailey Norwegian House.
4. Printing allowance for banner, and handouts for events, \$600. Alison motioned and Fred seconded. Motion carried.
5. Tent purchase-no vote. We would like to have the tent in time for events. Fred will research the options for a 10x20 tent.
6. Ground Penetrating Radar-no vote. They did not get back to Alan with a contract proposal yet. All agree we still need to do this before any excavating or construction, in order to do historical due diligence.

#### **IV. Membership Report and Events**

Alison shared her updated membership report showing over 30 individuals.

We are planning another Oktoberfest in September as an Open House of the whole property and explanation of the Bailey Norwegian House.

Four Board members are planning on visiting Germany this summer and will take photos and get insights we can possibly share at events.

#### **V. Development Report**

The Ruth Foundation for the Arts grant application was denied. Alan will be in contact with them to find out why, so that we can rewrite for it with what they are looking for within our goals.

The Washington County Tourism grant was submitted last week.

Other sources of income and the Capital Campaign were discussed.

#### **VI. Old Business**

The 1849 Rebellion Painting is half finished and is looking good.

The remainder of the oak chairs were delivered.

Hotel rooms have been reserved for the Wis Historical Society Conference in Appleton on Oct 17-18, 2024. Alison/Rhonda, Fred/Young. Other members will drive. Alan and Rusty will be presenting.

Barn clean up will begin this coming Saturday. Alan placed a temporary cover over the house window that fell out.

### **VII. New Business**

State approved architectural drawings needed for Bailey Norwegian house public restroom—Jim Schaefer or Q's Distinctive Design?

New Mission and Vision statement adoption. The board discussed a draft that Alan shared. Most agreed on the Mission but want more work on the Vision statement. Greg said it can be narrowed and then details added in an additional category of Goals. Alan will get advice on it from the Ruth Foundation.

### **VIII. Adjournment:**

Fred motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 pm, Ed seconded. Meeting was adjourned. Next Board meeting June 3rd.