



Friends of Saxonia House, Inc.

F.O.S.H. Board Meeting

April 3, 2023

6:00 PM, ZOOM Platform

Attending: Alan Pape, Alison Witt-Janssen, Rhonda Hare, Ed Ritger, Greg Zahn

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Alan Pape at 6:02 pm.

II. Approval of minutes

Ed moved to approve the minutes of the Feb 6, 2023 Board meeting; Alison seconded. Motion carried. These minutes had already been preliminarily approved via email and posted on our website.

III. Treasurers' Report

Greg reported a balance of about \$11,300 in the checking and \$1586. in Flipcause. Book orders and incoming members were added. Bucky will send the books out.

Upcoming bills are \$433 for insurance due after Sept. and Porta-john bill for this summer. Discussion on porta-john: best to pay contract up front. Rhonda offered her bathroom for the April work day. So we would need a 5 month contract. Ed motioned and Greg seconded to proceed with this 5 month contract, May through October, 2023.

CD news (It was previously voted online to get a \$10,000 CD in order to gain some interest from current rates): We have an issue with signatories, which are currently Jim and Greg. Discussion followed on adding Alan as general signatory, and also who to sign for the CD. (People who live local to the Johnston bank need to be the in-person signatories for the CD). Greg motioned to add Alan as a general signator and Ed seconded. Greg then motioned and Ed seconded to make Alan and Greg be the CD signatories. Both motions carried.

IV. Membership report

Alison reported that as of April 3 we have 22 paid members. There are a handful whose membership will expire this month. She will get a membership campaign going. Alan and Greg are in the Pomeranian group and this group is a great example of how to get members. Alison will have membership brochures in time for the Germanfests.

V. Fund Raising report

Alan reported on Progress in establishing a workable program using the Klessig Family history and mid-19th century Arts in Europe and America and its ties to the 1848/49 revolutions in Europe. (See new program concept sketch showing a reconstructed Norwegian log house used as a public restroom and a separate interpretive exhibit area of Norwegian Romantic Paintings and photos.) Phase 1 could happen within a year and a half IF the existing septic is usable. \$170,000 for Phase 1 of this project hopefully could be paid by the BEMIS family. Alan will present this phase 1 to them. This will get more work going so we could be exempt from property taxes, as long as we have a public restroom. After that we would apply to Kohler for the bigger grant. 4.5 million...

VI. Restoration Report:

Alan sent floor plans of Saxonia House using his new program concept. Alan explained about the Norwegian log cabin theme and the connections between that and Klessigs and romance painting. Ed is concerned that Norwegian influence takes away from German enthusiasm. Alan talked about how they are tied together by art.

VII. Research Report:

Alan has a 15+ page on-going study of the above plan. Alan showed some of the drawings for his program concept. He will email them. Tom Lutz is also continuing his research.

VIII. Old Business:

- a. Replacements of Jim's Tents with a 10'x20' strong steel pipe frame type tent with wind walls. This is Alan's idea for when we have tours. These will be around \$1000. Not interested in the smaller \$100 sun shades.
- b. Gary Luther to visit this spring. He is an expert on old taverns and a friend of Charlie Mayhew; involved in the German choir and WI beer museum.
- c. Use of existing septic system: Ed Ritger is continuing to work with the County but also trying to track down a plumbing contractor. The septic is on the NE part of property .
- d. There was an idea to let other organizations use our Flip Caus account store section. WE are willing to work with other organizations. Ed mentioned that Klessig Riverside Group of Waubeka wants to save buildings, maybe invite them over May 20 workday!
- e. Search for potential paid intern to help with web site: Rhonda's daughter will do this for volunteer hours. Alison will help train her.
- f. National Land Marking process: Alan shared the email to the Historic Preservation Consultant. Tracie may be a person to help Tom Lutz. Alan will meet with her and forward information to Tom.
- g. Special Event plans: Rhonda/Alison /Greg held a zoom meeting....came up with the idea of a Joint Oktoberfest with Farmington Historical Society, pending agreement of FHS. Marcia from FHS will propose the event to her Board. We will also run a booth at two Germanfests: Milwaukee and West Bend... might need a pop up tent possibly for West Bend. The booth would not sell anything, just increase awareness of the German heritage here at Saxonia House, and also advertise that the public can see the property at the upcoming Oktoberfest. Alison made a motion to do an Oktoberfest Sept 16, Rhonda seconded it. Motion carried. Event committee will continue to meet to plan details.
- h. Any other Old Business: Rhonda reported on the program she attended on the original surveying of Farmington Township, including our land. This program was sponsored by Farmington Historical Society.

IX. New Business:

- a. New vice-president, Fred Klessig was approved for banking signatures,
- b. Next work day at Saxonia House is Saturday April 22nd –Restrooms at Rhonda's
- c. Alan to meet with historic Wisconsin paintings and advisors about his new concept for program development. Jim Pape of Cedarburg...
- d. Any other new business? Alison knows of a grant writer and a fundraiser, Marianne Moberly, and has requested her resume and prices, to see if we need her services.
- e. Rhonda attended a Washington County Historical Society event and made the acquaintance of Jim Schultz, nephew of Carl Crass. He can give us an idea of the layout of Saxonia house during their time at it. Rhonda will invite him to a workday.

X. Adjournment:

Greg motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 pm, Ed seconded. Meeting was adjourned.