



# Friends of Saxonia House, Inc.

F.O.S.H. Board Meeting

July 10, 2023

6:00 PM, ZOOM Platform

**Attending:** Ed Ritger, Alan Pape, Greg Zahn, Fred Klessig, Alison Witt-Janssen

Pre-meeting discussion about putting solar panels on the garage building and using the power to run the restrooms...

## I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Alan Pape at 6:04 pm.

## II. Approval of minutes

Greg moved to approve the minutes of the April, 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 \$1586 Flipcause +\$15,000 CD +2292.53 (includes \$1500 donation for the Saxony uprising painting) = \$18,878.53 We earn about \$650 interest from the CD per year.

Ed motioned and Alison seconded to approve. Motion carried.

## IV. Membership Report and Events

Alison reported that we have 22 members, no change since last meeting.

We will have a booth at Germanfest in Milwaukee July 28-30. Noon to midnight. Alison, Fred, and Rhonda will run this.

## **V. Fund Raising Report**

Alan reported on receiving the \$1500 donation from Robert and Karl Klessig, Fred's brothers, of the Saxon Homestead Farm in Centerville (near Lutze Housebarn) to commission a May 1849 Dresden, Saxony Barricade Up Rising painting by Dan Rizzi of Plymouth. This would be a 24'X36" oil painting with frame finished by end of September to be used in Klessig family History Room #2 in the Saxonia House.

Letters of invitation were sent to David Kohler, Kris Bemis, Joseph Pabst, and Leonard Sobczak. David Kohler responded that his corporate person would be contacting us. They have two log structures being used as restrooms. Rip O'Dwanny will be contacted later this summer...his wife had Norwegian connections.

## **VI. Development Report**

Vote on the three phase plan as written in the agenda:

1. 2025 Site opens for weekends by volunteers using a safe and cleaned up Saxonia House, new public toilets in Nelson/Bailey log house, parking on grass, 10'x20' welcome tent. Entrance signs, promotions, etc. Need re-zoning, big barn disassembled and stock piled, real estate tax exemption. (fits perfect with 200th anniv. of Norwegians coming to America).
2. 2030 House is restored and filled with exciting exhibitions, Museum store, dining room, Beer Hall and commercial kitchen, new entrance off Hwy. H, paved parking lot, garden & landscaping, beer garden, fencing, lectures, special events, an Artist-in-resident program, ticket house in old rebuilt garage, paid guides.
3. 2035 Two log Guest Houses open offering ten guest rooms, Beer Cave with a reconstructed tasting room attached, brewery ruins restored, Bake House reconstructed, horse barn restored, fields of hops vines, apple orchard, plus more special events and an annual tour to Europe.

For Phase 1: Jerry Dewane will taking the log house down and bringing it over to our site this Fall.

Ed motioned and Greg seconded to approve this three phase plan. Motion carried.

Fred wondered about the price of ground-penetrating radar to find the location of original log cabins before we begin. Alan will look into this.

## **VII. Research Report**

Fred reported that Tom has 140 pages and 1200 footnotes so far. He is finding this to be a complex project. Tom said we will be able to do less guessing because we will know what it looked like. He is working on this on a volunteer basis. This research could possibly lead to publication.

Alan's research pages on painters/artists of the period are also increasing.

## **VIII. Old Business:**

- a. Replacements of Jim's Tents with a 10'x20' strong steel pipe frame type tent. We can borrow Alan's 13 x 13 Kitchen tent to use for Oktoberfest. Ed and Greg agreed to defer buying a tent right now.
- b. Oktober Fest Sept 16: Next two work days get the place a little more safe for visitors. Alan to call Mike Besch about generator. Alison and Alan have shop vacs for work days. Alan will also contact a restoration company in Plymouth to vacuum the whole place.
- c. New Grant Writer. Alison will invite her and her family to come to the Oktoberfest.

## **IX. New Business:**

- a. Hiring of Valerie Vespalec as part time Program Development Manager. The job description was forwarded to board members by Alan. Valerie has connections to possible donors. Greg would like to see more clearly defined reports expected and quantified hours with milestones outlined by us in the job description. Ed agreed and also suggested she be an independent contractor rather than an employee of FOSH. The number of hours and rate of pay was also discussed.

Greg proposed that Alan look into these issues further and in the meantime have her start as a trial period...Ed motioned to authorize officers to work toward

retaining Valerie in an independent contractor capacity and explore her expectations of pay and quantify what we expect her to do. Greg seconded this. Alan and Greg will meet with Valerie very soon about this. Motion carried.

b. Business Advisory Board: Jim Pape, Ric Hartman, Lola Roeh, Steve Rewolinski, Rip O'Dwanny, Tryg Jacobson to review Alan's new Business Plan. Greg motioned and ALison seconded to approve this Business Advisory Board. Motion carried.

c. Next meeting is September 11, 2023

**X. Adjournment:**

Fred motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm, Greg seconded. Meeting was adjourned.