



Friends of Saxonia House, Inc.

F.O.S.H. Board Meeting

Sept. 11, 2023

6:00 PM, ZOOM Platform

Call Meeting to order: Alan called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm

Attendees: Alan Pape, Alison Witt-Janssen, Fred Klessig, Ed Ritger, Greg Zahn, Jim Dieringer, Rhonda Hare

Approval of July 10, 2023 minutes: Ed motioned to accept, Greg seconded the minutes which are posted on the website. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Greg reported a total balance in checking account and savings combined of \$17,741. Paid Flipcause for the year. Next meeting Nov 6—discuss CD renewal. Alison motioned and Fred seconded to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Membership: Alison reported that membership has dropped to 15 members, due to some non-renewals, although we have not been campaigning. Alison will bring membership forms to Oktoberfest event on Saturday and send to former members for renewal. The cost of printing membership forms and flyers was discussed and Ed motioned and Alison seconded that the Treasurer will have the authority to reimburse members for up to \$200 in expenses relating to FOSH, with expenses exceeding \$200 to be board approved. Motion carried. Alan had an incentive idea about offering free books to those who sign up for membership now. Ed motioned to do this and Greg seconded. Motion carried. Free books with membership will start at this Saturday's event.

Special Events: Rhonda reported that we had a booth at German Fest at West Bend but it was not manned. Is West Bend worth it? Jim couldn't find our booth at West Bend, so maybe it wasn't visible enough to guests...

Development Report: Alan's 23-page preliminary DRAFT Business and Marketing Plan was sent to advisors and board members for comment. Alan is also dropping one off at the Kohler Foundation. He has not heard back. But he is expecting to receive the \$10,000 for the video orientation program. We will publicize this when we receive grants.

Old Business:

Oktoberfest Plans: Set up is Friday all day and Sat morning. Marilyn will talk about the beer cave. Nelson and Greg will also help where needed. Alison will do the membership table. We have borrowed lots of easels and posters from Farmington Historical Society. They will be present to help with set up for this joint event.

Old garage restoration and use: Ed Ritger reported that he had an Amish contractor there to make a proposal for roof replacement. The minutes from now on will reflect that it is not a "garage", but a "timber frame poultry barn". Roof work is needed soon, if we don't fix the roof we will lose the building.

Nelson/Bailey log house project: The building was officially donated on August 18, with one year to remove. No funds for this were raised thus far, but logs are marked and brush is cleared. ALan is not going to take the building down until we are ready for it. The building will be an exhibition hall and public restroom. Mike Besch suggested we rename the building. Some ideas were discussed but tabled.

Penetrating Radar Study: Alan has not contacted anyone yet, but he will.

Sanitary and Building Permits. Alan's findings indicate that it will cost us about \$850 to determine if our existing septic field is usable. There was discussion about getting more quotes. We also need to talk to DNR to make sure we are not impacting the wetlands on our property. This was tabled.

LTE/part time Program Manager/assistant still needed. Alison is wondering if we lower the requirements of the job and maybe offer virtual work at her own time that maybe our candidate who declined the original offer would

reconsider. Alison will contact her and also raise the pay rate to \$20 an hour. Greg motioned and Alison seconded. The motion carried that Alison will offer 20 an hour for 15 hr a month first month and 5 hours a month thereafter (approximately) with the goal of improving the website and the social media.

New Business:

Boys Scouts projects: Rhonda sent photos of the work they did clearing brush from the brewery and the bake house. They are willing to do more.

Steve Stuckey from the Tower Heritage Center (Washington County Historical Society) met with Alan and made him aware of the HUB Volunteer Center in West Bend, which may be of use to us, as it is a shared club of all the volunteer organizations in Washington County. Steve Stuckey is interested in the possibilities at Saxonia House and we are grateful for these kinds of partnerships. A joint restoration school at our site would be a great place to house the Tishler collection, for example.

Adjournment: Alison motioned to adjourn and Jim seconded at 8:02 pm

**Final Work Day: Saturday Oct 21 10:00am-3:00pm:
Removal of 1930 second floor wall and closet.**

Next Board meeting is Monday Nov 6, 2023 via Zoom