

MINUTES OF THE WHITEWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY HELD ON FEBRUARY 29, 2024 AT THE WHITEWATER MUNICIPAL OFFICE AT 13:00 HOURS

Present: Janis Tomkinson, President; Daryl McLaughlin, Vice-President; Debbie MacDonald, Treasurer; Sandra Buttle, Recording Secretary; Heather Campbell; Judith Humphries, Evelyn St. Amour; Joanne Pratt; Terri Saunders

1. WELCOME

President, Janis Tomkinson, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was moved by Terri Saunders,
And seconded by Evelyn St. Amour,

That the minutes of the meeting held on January 24, 2024 be adopted. – Carried.

3. REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Debbie MacDonald presented the Treasurer's report as follows:

- January 5, 2024 opening balance \$13,796.92, expenses totaled \$1,166.31; and a closing balance of \$12,630.61
- January 24, 2024 opening balance \$12,630.61, expenses totaled \$234.98; and a closing balance of \$12,620.63

It was moved by Daryl McLaughlin,
And seconded by Evelyn St. Amour,

That the report of the Treasurer be accepted. – Carried.

4. MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

The new membership form was reviewed with the new categories. There was a question raised "does the annual membership fee include admission to the museum for members" - Yes. Annual membership fees were raised to \$20.00. This is the first change in fees since the museum opened its' doors in 1996. It was suggested that we need to put up more signage stating that our Museum relies on donations to operate. There was a discussion on public admissions fees i.e. donation or a fixed price. This will be discussed at the next meeting after we look at the number of visits vs. donations received and what other museums are doing. Janis and Sandy will follow up.

5. EVENTS FOR 2024

- **Rental St. Aidan's Church** – It was felt that the \$800.00 rental fee was too high and since we will offer washroom facilities through the museum office we will not have to rent a porta-potty. After discussion it was resolved that \$300.00 will be the rental price noting in the contract that the washroom facilities are available off-site. Since most rentals would probably on the weekend, students would be on duty to open and close the church. Under no circumstances are keys to be handed out. Daryl, Janis and Sandy volunteered to be available if the church is rented outside of the regular hours.

- Plant Sale Date June 15th but to be confirmed;
- The Foresters Falls Athletic Association is having a garden tour on July 21st and we have agreed to participate.
- Quilt Fundraiser – in order to get a license to sell tickets a separate bank account is required. Debbie will set up this account and let Janis know so we can move forward with the license.
- Adult craft was suggested
- Marc Audet has a new album out. It was suggested that we combine this with a lunch. Janis will contact Marc.
- Gail Gavin was suggested. Sandy will follow up.
- The art show at St. Aidan's was very successful last year and would like to do it again this year.
- It was also suggested that writers in the area do readings.
- Don Kwan is organizing a community art festival in Westmeath on September 21, 2024 and asked if we are interested in participating to showcase the museum. Janis indicated that we were.
- The Forester's Falls Library is closing March 31, 2024. Janis contacted Mark Bell, our Township representative, and asked for some space for the museum. He said that the Township is looking for space for the Whitewater seniors and Janis indicated we would be more than happy to share the space and put on events with the Whitewater seniors. We would like a small space for a desk so that people coming to the museum to do research would have a space to use. Books are being distributed to Cobden and Beachburg library branches and we have put in a request to keep the Township history section at the museum. Mark Bell is to get back to Janis.
- Philipa Bell was contacted for a history on the Bell store and the family is working on this so we can post on our website.
- It was suggested that advertising be done on Facebook (which we do), church bulletins, community boards, Next Door, MyFM, Heritage Radio, etc.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

- **Shelter for Snow Roller** – two years ago the application for funding through the Trillium Foundation was submitted and turned down as we do not own or rent the museum buildings. The Township would have to apply for this funding and only once a year. Last year the Township had other priorities so did not submit on behalf of the Museum. As our circumstances have not changed it was pointless to submit another application this year. Before we can move forward on a shelter we need solid information i.e. specific costs, quote and a design. Judith stated that we have all the plans and elevations required. As this shelter would be used by the public we would need a building permit. We need to speak to the Township regarding renting the buildings for i.e. \$1.00 per year with an option to renew every 10 years. Judith has stepped down as chair of this committee but would participate on the committee.
- **The Canada Summer Jobs application** was submitted and approved for the full minimum wage. The ad has been posted on Museum Facebook, Museum website and at Algonquin College for the museum studies program. The maximum is for 16 weeks, 40 hour work week, 8 hours a day, Wednesday to Sunday. We will be closing on Mondays and Tuesdays. Once applications close on March 28th, Janis and Evelyn will be conducting interviews.

- **Tour de Whitewater** is scheduled July 13th from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Evelyn St. Amour is taking the lead but would like a few volunteers to assist. The municipality rents the porta potty. Joanne, Janis and Judith volunteered to assist Evelyn.
- **Light fixtures** to be purchased at Home Depot for Ross House and St. Aidan's.
- **Community Bulletin Board** – should we install one above the bench at the museum or on the Exhibit Hall? Joanne, Lawrie and Janis will look at this.
- **Archives Program** – Terri Saunders advised that she spoke to Fay Bennett and she will be starting to learn the program at the end of March.
- **Barn Quilts** – Janis will contact the municipality to put up the barn quilts and to reinstall the down spout behind the Exhibit Hall.

7. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Terri Saunders,
And seconded by Debbie MacDonald,

That the meeting adjourn.
Time of Adjournment: 2:45 p.m.