

DODGE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MARCH 20, 2008 in Dodge Center's City Hall

The Dodge County Historical Society's Board of Directors met on March 20, 2008 in Dodge Center's City Hall. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by DCHS President Don Smith. The following were present: Don Smith, President; Lynette Dahms, Dale Morris, Melisa Ferris, Marlene Glaus, Barb Gilliland, Ruth Stringer, Earlene King, Director; and members and guests, Lois Nash, and Dave Hanson, County Commissioner.

Petitions to the Chair: Treasurer matters; Dave Hanson. Item 10.10.2 on the agenda was corrected to read "Robert Scherger of Wasioja Township". Barb G. moved to accept the agenda as corrected; Lynette D. seconded the motion, which carried.

Secretary's Report: The Minutes of the February 2008 meeting were presented for review by the Board. Barb G. noted the following corrections to the minutes: Under "Treasurer's Report" a correction was made to line 2, towards the end of the line to correct a typographical error to read: "treasurer's report"; Under New Business, Wasioja School Windows: "Robert Scherger". Barb G. moved to approve the minutes subject to the corrections; Lynette D. seconded the motion; the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report was presented. Don Smith noted that Gene was resigning as Treasurer effective April 12 at the Annual Meeting, and thanked him for his diligent service to the Board. The new officers will be elected at the April 17 meeting. A discussion was had re: hiring someone to do our book keeping and having a Treasurer (a separate person from the book keeper) report back on the books to the Board. A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Dale M. and seconded by Lynette D.; the motion carried.

Monthly Reports: Earlene K. presented the written Monthly Report. The museum had 64 visitors in February, and logged \$27.25 in sales. Donations, admissions and other income for February totaled \$300.50. Earlene asked that people send her their volunteer information.

Director's Report: Earlene also presented the monthly Director's Report. She noted that the museum's sewer line froze on February 28. The City checked the main sewer line and found no problems, but did find a dip in the line leaving the museum and noted that the freeze is in that dip. Don S. noted that the sewer line needs to be fixed. Earlene said she is to call the City in April to do a dye test on the line. Dale M. volunteered to get a repair estimate for the line. Earlene also noted that there is no hot water in the museum. Dale M. suggested we look at on-demand hot water heaters. Ruth S.'s grandson is a plumber and she said she would get an estimate from him to install such a heater.

The museum also has a mouse infestation. Plunkett Pest Control was called and provided mouse control service; a bill was presented for \$155.00. They also provided a quote for ongoing pest control services for the museum, at \$330 annually or \$55 per month. Dale M. moved, and Lynette D. seconded, that we sign up with Plunkett's for the monthly service; the motion carried. Earlene will check with Plunkett to see whether the \$155 bill for mouse control would be covered as part of the \$330 annual contract.

Maxson Electric also installed five (5) outlets in the Sacristy. Volunteer assistance is still needed to move things from the main part of the museum to the Sacristy. We still need bookshelves and a 36" wheeled cart for the family history books. Don S. noted that Earlene had prior approval to spend up to \$275 for a book cart on wheels for the museum. Lynnette D. took our old wooden museum sign home to repair it. Earlene bought some rubbish bags from A to Z Sanitation, and A to Z will also pick up our paper recycling for free, so long as they are bagged in paper grocery sacks and set in a plastic bin or tub to prevent the paper from getting wet or the bags splitting open. This will reduce our overall trash/rubbish outflow.

Earlene also noted that she spoke with Debbie Nathan, a writer from New York, who is researching Shirley Mason, the Dodge Center woman allegedly the subject of the book, Sybil, for an upcoming book. Ms. Nathan found the book's author's original notes, which were kept secret until Ms. Mason died. Ms. Nathan wants to contact local people who knew Ms. Mason to make her "more real" than the character in the book. She has asked for our help locating Ms. Mason's surviving family members, and she will be in our area in May. Barb G. noted that the BBC came to the area about three years ago to research and prepare a documentary about Sybil. Barb also said she has notes from Ms. Mason's teachers. A discussion was had of people who were related to Ms. Mason, but all of the people mentioned are deceased (i.e.; Wayne Trapp, Dessie England).

Committee Reports:

Log Cabin: Lynette D. talked to a log cabin restorer in Wisconsin about possible restoration work on our log cabin. Melisa F. mentioned that John Olive of Mantorville did the restoration work on the Mantorville Restoration Association's Log House and did work on Lyle and Theresa Hoaglund's log cabin behind Riverside Gifts in Mantorville. Lynette said that some of the logs in the Caabin at the Fair Grounds had been filled in with cement, and that several other logs need to be replaced as they are in an advanced state of rot. Ruth S. asked whether the Fair Board would contribute towards restoration of the building. It was noted that the Fair Board maintains the property for the County, who is its ultimate owner. When asked, Dave Hanson said that the County would probably be interested in maintaining and repairing the Log Cabin, and is something that the DCHS and the County should jointly look at doing. Lynette D. noted that she would talk to John Olive about other restorers in the area and other expects she locates for repair/restoration estimates.

Summer School 2008: Barb G. talked to Mary Ann Bucher about recruiting teachers for this summer. Mary Ann said the teachers all told her it was too late to do summer school this year. Don S. said he would contact Bonnie Empelding, a home school association member, to see whether she was available to teach or had any suggestions.

Ghost Towns: Barb G. and Ruth S. mapped out 29 spots on a tour map with mileages. They decided that we should be able to hold a bus tour of the ghost towns in Dodge County for \$15 per person, on a coach bus, which holds up to 47 people. The tour would be four hours long, and they suggested having a box lunch at Rice Lake Park as part of the tour. They thought that July 26, 2008 was a good date for the tour. They plan to advertise in the Community Education book. Ashland Township has offered to let us use their town hall and facilities for the tour. Discussion was had as to the minimum cost we could cover if the tour isn't a sold-out event.

Barb G. said that the budget was already tight at \$15 per person, so the suggestion was made to raise the cost per person to \$20. Barb argued that people would not bring children on the tour if it cost \$20 per person, and she felt the DCHS should be willing to pay whatever additional costs the tour might incur if \$15 per person ends up being insufficient to cover the actual tour costs.

DCHS Calendar: Don S. said the DCHS should have a calendar of annual events to distribute to members at the Annual Meeting. He asked Barb G. to work with him to compile a list of activities and dates in advance of the meeting; she agreed to help.

Wasioja Cheese Factory and Dodge County Poor Farm: Barb G. said the Delyers think it will take about an hour to tour their property. Don S. said that Mary Ann B. has a committee in place working on this event and the tour will be Saturday, May 17. **correction Sunday, May 18th.** This event will be the DCHS's Spring Tour event.

Dodge County Expo: Earlene K. noted that the DCHS needed volunteers to work our booth at the Expo this year on March 29. The Rice Lake Church group also wants to be involved with our booth. The museum will be closed that day so that Earlene can attend the Expo.

Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting will be April 12 from 12 to 3 p.m. at the Opera House in Mantorville. Dr. Egerton's portrait will be dedicated and unveiled at that time, and his family will be on hand for the dedication. We plan to hang the portrait in the Wasioja Recruiting Station in the summer and in the museum in the winter. Board members are asked to bring snacks to the meeting. The terms of Barb G., Lynette D. and Dale M. are up as of this meeting. Board members are needed to assist with elections at this meeting.

Old Business:

Kasson Water Tower: Barb Pike talked to Earlene K. about the work remaining on the water tower. Melisa F. is to talk to David Eide about the work. We have money in a dedicated account for the water tower, but we need to know what needs to be done. Earlene has a copy of the agreement between the City of Kasson and the DCHS. Melisa F. will ask David Eide to attend a DCHS meeting to discuss what we and the Water Tower committee need to do together to finish the project.

Wasioja School Windows: Barb G. asked Robert Scherger whether the township has any money available to replace the windows in the old school. There is no money. The windows need to be replaced with historically accurate replicas of the original windows. Photos were presented showing four-pane glass windows in the building in the past.

Property Lease with City of Mantorville for the Church: Tom Gall, Mantorville's Mayor, noted that the City actually owns the church that the DCHS uses as its museum. We have a 99 year lease on the building. The City offered to sell us the building for \$1.00. Under the Minnesota State Historical Society Rules, if the DCHS becomes insolvent, all of our property passes to the State Historical Society. Barb G. brought copies of the original lease with the City. This issue will be examined and discussed at a later date.

New Business:

KARE: Kenton Spading, KARE's secretary, stopped by the museum and suggested that the DCHS turn over management of the Kasson Water Tower to KARE. The suggestion was discussed and rejected at this time due to a lack of details.

Dave Hanson, Dodge County Commissioner: Mr. Hanson was present to discuss the Old Seminary in Wasioja. He said the County Board wants to fix the fence surrounding the seminary ruins and maintain the ruins. He presented a detailed report of his recent visit to the Confederate battlefields in and around Chattanooga, TN, and discussed the memorials he saw at Chickamauga. Discussion was had of placing a monument to the Wasioja volunteers somewhere in Dodge County, either on the Stagecoach Trail, at the seminary, adjacent to the road in Wasioja, and other possible locations.

Dale Morris' trees: Dale M. ordered three trees from Dave Hanson to plant at the Recruiting Station in memory of the DCHS's "Green Thumb" volunteers. He purchased two sugar maples and 1 Sunburst Honey Locust.

General Discussion:

--Fair Books: Barb G. wanted to know what to do with the ones we have left, and suggested giving them away at the Expo. Discussion was had regarding how many books we have left and whether people would still want to pay to buy them. There are some full boxes of the books stored at Lois Nash's house and two partial boxes at the museum.

--Marlene Glaus asked what items would be for sale at the DCHS booth at the Expo. Earlene explained that the DCHS would have a sample of the books available at the museum on display at the Expo and a sign saying that the books/items are for sale at the museum. Discussion was had as to how many of Marlene's books were still for sale at the Museum, whether they were being made available, and whether people were correctly being told that the museum was out of Marlene's book.

Melisa F moved to adjourn the meeting, and Lynette D. seconded; the motion carried and the meeting was ADJOURNED at 9:04 p.m.

(Note: until a new Secretary is elected/appointed at the next monthly DCHS meeting, the minutes of the meeting are being taken and prepared by M. Ferris.)