

BOURBONNAIS GROVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
MEMBERSHIP MEETING—March 4, 2021

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Jim Paul called the Zoom meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

**ATTENDANCE:** In addition to Jim Paul, Charles Balesi, Daron Kinzinger, Mary Ann Lambert, Ken and Judy Ponton, Marcia Rabideau, Josue Savoie (guest), Wal Schuler, Gary Seiner, Laurel Soper, and Ellen Stringer attended.

**PRESENTATION:** Josue Savoie introduced himself.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the February 4, 2021 minutes were approved. The motion was made by Mary Ann and seconded by Ken.

**TREASURERS REPORT:** Although he could not attend the meeting, Steve Monts submitted the bank balances as of March 1, 2021: general account \$22,574.71; log schoolhouse account \$58,074.71; windows account \$395.96; and CD \$6523.01.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Although Bonnie Bergeron could not attend the meeting, she emailed that we have 158 members of which 4 are new this year and 62 are lifetime members. 53 have paid and 39 not paid.

**WAYS AND MEANS:** Gary has volunteered to meet on March 19 with Nicole Smolkovich of the Community Foundation of the Kankakee River Valley in order to set up the BGHS as a “Designated Fund” on their website “Donate” page. Ellen then led a discussion about hosting the upcoming July 4 *Les Artisans* Arts and Craft Fair. She is working closely with the Kankakee County Health Department so that proper health mitigations will be in place. Jim called for a motion to go ahead with holding the July 4 *Les Artisans* Arts and Craft Fair. Ellen will submit a press release to the *Daily Journal*. Laurel made the motion and it was seconded by Daron. Motion carried. Regarding the website update, Laurel had no new information.

**CURATORS REPORT:** None.

**BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS:** Gary stated that the chimney leak was no worse. Jim stated that he would follow up with the roofer from Burklow Construction to check the chimneys. Jim will also solicit bids for pest control. Regarding the boardwalk, Ken recommended Paul Zeedyk for the work. Ken again recommended using Facebook to find a contractor, and Laurel said that she would put the post on FB. Daron mentioned that weather stripping is needed around the front door.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Jim asked the membership to assist him with the Illinois Heritage Association survey which was then done. The membership next addressed the following bylaw and accession policy amendments. All were accepted except items pertaining to “loans”. The “loans” items were tabled until the April 1 meeting.

**BYLAW proposed amendments:**

Article II - **Mission Statement** -Purpose

A. to perpetuate the heritage of the Village of Bourbonnais, IL and its

- residents.
- B. to collect and preserve data touching the history of Bourbonnais, IL and it's residents.
- C. to perpetuate the memory of those who contributed to making the history of Bourbonnais,IL.
- D. **to receive, purchase, sell, hold and maintain items and artifacts that meet the criteria listed in Acquisition Policy.**

Article VI - Officers and Committees

Section 6.4.4 Curator and **Collection Committee** shall be the guardians of all artifacts and historical records owned by **(remove loan)** the Society for exhibit of preservation. The Curator and the Collection Committee shall also act as managers and custodians of the museum contents.

**BGHS ACQUISITION POLICY (Ratified on August 5, 1993) proposed amendments:**

Acquisition Definitions **and Guidelines**

PERMANENT MUSEUM COLLECTION

1. Found: Articles or artifacts found originally in the Letourneau home or on the original site. The artifacts found during the restoration or moving of the George Letourneau house; and or in the archeological excavation of the original site are the property of the Society. Their care and display are the responsibility of the Curator.
2. Gifts: Anything given to the society for use or display in and about the Letourneau House.  
Gifts of furniture, clothing, photos, artifacts, etc. should be received by the Curator **and /or the Collection Committee.**

Items offered to officers and/or general membership should be brought to the Collection Committee BEFORE being accepted.

**(New section: Educational Collection)**

**EDUCATIONAL COLLECTION -Items in the Educational Collections are not accessioned into the Permanent Collection (newspapers, genealogies, scrapbooks, book folders, and files from other museums that the public could access) and are held to a different standard of care. Removal of items from the Educational Collection may occur without formal deaccessioning process.**

- a: Definition: photos, scrapbooks, ephemera, manuscripts, history books, etc..
- b. Uses: these objects may be handled by the public for research.
- c. Access to Educational items will be made to visitors by request and will be studied under supervision of staff or volunteers.
- d. The Curator and/or the Collection Committee will determine items to be placed in the Educational Collection.

**3. Loans: (this section is to be deleted—see below for more on loans)**

3. **Purchased items:** any item or artifacts bought by the Society for the use or display in the Letourneau Home Museum.  
The purchase of any item or artifact by the Society must be approved by the Curator and the Board of Directors at a regular monthly meeting.

4. **Donated items or Artifacts:** the Collection Committee will determine acceptance of donated items. A completed BGHS Accession form must be submitted to the Collection Committee and approved before accepting the item or artifact.

The policy for buying articles in Section 3 or accepting donated items in Section 4 are guided by:

- i. **Need:** Does the item fill a determined need for the Society?
- ii. **Authenticity:** Is it an authentic historical item? ( verbal okay acceptable)
- iii. **Appropriateness:** Is item or artifact suitable for or in context of the scope of the Society's interest?
- iv. **Benefit to Society:** Where and when will the item/artifact be displayed & how will it benefit the Society?
- v. **Funding:** Money used to buy items/artifacts is to be allocated for the purposes in the Society's budget (\$100.00 per year). Allowances can be made for special purchases.
- vi. **Space:** does the museum have display or storage space for the item?
- vii. **Condition:** Is the item/artifact in reasonable condition to be displayed or stored?

(All references to loans in the August 5, 1993 are to be deleted and replaced with the following):

5. **Loans:** *The Board of Directors has unanimously agreed that artifacts in the possession of the Society are not to be loaned to any person or organization [Jim—source?]*  
Due to minimum volunteers and staff, the Society can no longer accept loans.

6. **Disposition ( Accessioning)** The formal act of legally gaining ownership of an object . After being accessed, the items shall be held in public trust.

- a. All artifacts will be logged in and given an acquisition number and cataloged by the **Collection Committee and/or** the Curator. The Curator and/or **the Collection Committee** will issue the donator a certificate of transfer and receive a signed release.
- b. Proper storage and display of the items is the responsibility of the **Collection Committee and/or** the Curator and staff.

**Remove-**Each year the Board of Directors will set goals on acquisitions.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

Jim thanked Marcia for submitting the bylaw amendment proposals and working on the acquisition policy; and Laurel for hosting the Zoom meeting. Laurel made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Daron. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Paul