

BOURBONNAIS GROVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP MEETING—June 3, 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, Bonnie Bergeron, Daron Kinzinger, Norma Meier, Steve Monts, Ken and Judy Ponton, Marcia Rabideau, Wal Schuler, Gary Seiner, and Ellen Stringer attended.

PRESENTATION: Can you identify this French-Canadian immigrant (from May/June 2021 issue of BGHS News eletter)? After several minutes of discussion among the members, Daron gave the correct answer: Francis Seguin.

MINUTES: The minutes of the May 6, 2021 minutes were approved. The motion was made by Bonnie and seconded by Marcia.

TREASURERS REPORT: Steve stated the bank balances as of June 1, 2021: general account \$15,840.45; log schoolhouse account \$59,488.66; windows account \$410.97; and CD \$6527.03. Gary submitted a \$50 receipt for new flags. Jim donated \$30 for three garden sign markers repaired by Fast Signs, Inc. and \$84.47 to Select Seeds for 9 ‘Rainmaster’ Petunia heirloom plants. Ken made a motion to accept the treasurer’s report and pay the bills. Norma seconded the motion. Motion carried.

MEMBERSHIP: Laurel and Bonnie met today and cleaned up the membership roster, put address labels on membership cards, and mailed the cards. Bonnie stated that there are 119 members including 53 lifetime and 66 regular.

COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE: Marcia said that the Collections Committee has begun meeting every Wednesday morning at 10:00 am at the Letourneau Home/Museum. Members of the Collection Committee are herself, Laurel, Mary Ann Lambert, Roberta Renville, and Ken. The committee would like to get the Past Perfect software program for artifact inventory, but will first try to work in cooperation with the Kankakee County Historical Society. The committee needs containers to put items into. Some new books have been added to the lending library. Inventory will continue on items in the attic and basement. Ken is the representative of the log schoolhouse and will assist in acquisition criteria for the schoolhouse.

WAYS AND MEANS:

- Ellen said that the upcoming July 4 *Les Artisans* Arts and Craft Fair has 39 booths. With the upcoming reopening of Illinois on June 11, there should be no CDC restrictions on the craft fair. Masks will be encouraged for the unvaccinated. She may take out an ad in the *Daily Journal*. The Bourbonnais Friendship Festival has donated \$500 to the BGHS which she will accept and express our gratitude. Ellen suggested that we bring our donation box to the craft fair. One of the vendors has died, a Mr. Ochs, and his family is entitled to a \$104 credit. At the July 1 meeting, BGHS volunteers will be assigned for the BGHS table at the fair.
- Daron said that this summer he would meet with Nicole Smolkovich of the Community Foundation of the Kankakee River Valley in order to learn more information about how to set up the BGHS as a “Designated Fund” on their website “Donate” page. She

recommended that an endowment be created as a “pass through fund”. Gary has left a folder on the Letourneau Home/Museum front table for Daron’s use.

- Once the \$6000 grant to the BGHS (for architecture design of the restored log schoolhouse) from the Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley is received, the money will be delivered to Laurie Cyr so that she can add the village’s \$2500 contribution to pay for the \$8500 Brite Architecture Design fee. This will be the final design for the restoring of the log schoolhouse. The schoolhouse should be rebuilt by this time next year.
- Jim has been sending thank you letters to donors to the log schoolhouse restoration.
- Jim has confirmed the Friday September 17th date with the Kankakee Country Club for the next *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner.
- Jim requested a volunteer for the 5:00 pm June 25th Children’s Story Walk in the Letourneau Home/Museum gardens. No one volunteered so he will do it.
- The next membership meeting was confirmed as in-person and Zoom at 7:00 pm on July 1 at the Letourneau Home/Museum.
- Jim announced that he has been selected as Illinois ambassador to the French Heritage Corridor.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

- Paul Zeedyk of Zeedyk Remodeling has completed replacement of the boardwalk;
- Two garden work sessions were scheduled for Saturdays June 5 and 12 from 9-11 am;
- Master Gardeners Holly Froning and Debra Koch have been tending the herb garden;
- John and Marg Flynn of Camp MOSH visited the Letourneau Home/Museum on May 15 to organize the youths’ work in July;
- Gary is trying to contact the person who maintains cedar shake shingle roofs so that he can look at the shingles and chimney; and
- Gary will take old flags to American Legion in Manteno for disposal;

NEW BUSINESS: The membership agreed that the next meeting on July 1 meeting will be in-person (and Zoom) at the Letourneau Home/Museum. The reopening of the Letourneau Home/Museum will be discussed at that meeting. The consensus was that Jim and Charles will prepare a membership promotion article(s) for the *Daily Journal* which will include incentives.

OLD BUSINESS: Jim announced that the proposed bylaws and accession policy—which were approved by the membership at the May meeting—was passed by the officers and board members by a vote of 8-1. As a 2/3 majority was needed (6 votes), the proposals were approved. Jim mentioned that the BGHS calendar of events always listed in each monthly news eletter. He also asked for a volunteer to re-type the bylaws with the accompanying acquisition policy. Marcia volunteered to do so.

After motion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Paul