

BOURBONNAIS GROVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP MEETING—July1, 2021

CALL TO ORDER: President Jim Paul called the in-person/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, Laurel Soper, and Ellen Stringer attended.

PRESENTATION: Can you identify this local historical person (from June/July 2021 issue of BGHS News eletter)? After several minutes of discussion among the members, Laurel gave the correct first letter of her name: M—for Mesawkequa.

MINUTES: The minutes of the June 3, 2021 minutes were approved. The motion was made by Ken and seconded by Marcia.

TREASURERS REPORT: Steve provided spreadsheets with the bank balances as of July 1, 2021: general account \$15,324.63; log schoolhouse account \$60,036.23; windows account \$410.97; and CD \$6527.03. Jim donated \$85 for native plants in the new west border garden. Bonnie made a motion to accept the treasurer’s report and pay the bills. Gary seconded the motion. Motion carried.

MEMBERSHIP: Bonnie stated that there are 121 members in the database including 53 lifetime and 68 regular. 32 of those 68 have paid dues for this year.

COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE: Marcia stated that—after board of trustee approval—the FIC (Found in Collection) items which have no accessioning documentation will be sold at a garage sale on July 23-24. She said that Laurel has been inventorying items in the attic on the computer and that she and Gary are attempting to inventory items in the crawl space.

WAYS AND MEANS:

- Ellen said that the upcoming July 4 *Les Artisans* Arts and Craft Fair has 52 booths. She has set out 3 banners and 75 posters advertising the craft fair as well as spoke on the radio station WVLI. Volunteers for the BGHS table at the craft fair will be: Jim and Laurel 9-11 am; Ken 11-1 pm; and Bonnie and Gary 1-3 pm.
- Daron reaffirmed that he will 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.
- Jim distributed announcements for the Friday September 17th *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner at the Kankakee Country Club.
- The next membership meeting was confirmed as in-person and Zoom at 7:00 pm on August 5 at the Letourneau Home/Museum.
- Jim presented a draft of the French Heritage Corridor interactive map.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

- Camp MOSH will clean the Letourneau Home/Museum and mulch the daylily bed on July 21. Marcia and Jim will supervise the youth group.
- Gary will contact Langlois Roofing to look at the shingles and chimney.
- Jim presented two fleur-de-lis garden benches to be purchased from Lowe's for about \$250 (a donor has requested that the donation be used for the garden and membership promotion). Norma made a motion to purchase. Charles seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Laurel stated that she is in the process of putting the garden layout on the website.
- Ellen plans to replace the pin oak memorial sign dedicated Brad Yohnka.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Jim mentioned that a BGHS calendar of events is in each monthly news eletter.
- The membership reached a consensus that the Letourneau Home/Museum should reopen on August 1. Jim will disarm the alarm for chaperon Judy Smead. Bonnie volunteered to rearm the system after Judy leaves on Sunday August 1.

NEW BUSINESS:

- The membership agreed that the next meeting on August 5 meeting will be in-person (and Zoom) at the Letourneau Home/Museum.
- Jim said that the BGHS will be involved in the MBVM 175th anniversary celebration in 2022.
- Jim and Charles volunteered to represent the BGHS at the French Heritage Museum's Bastille Day Festival on July 17 from 1-4 pm.
- Jim stated that his Lifelong Learning webinar course at KCC "Antebellum Abolitionists (1838-60)" will be held on Friday November 5 from 10-11:30 pm.
- Charles and Jim had articles, focusing on Quebec, recently published in the *Daily Journal*. The goal is to increase awareness of the BGHS and increase membership. Charles is also working on a "Taste of Quebec" at Jewel Food Store in Bourbonnais during the week before the *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner.
- Bonnie mentioned that she has been unsuccessful in applying for an Heritage Fund Grant.

After motion by Laurel and seconded by Bonnie, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Paul