

BOURBONNAIS GROVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP MEETING—March 9, 2023 (action items are in red)

CALL TO ORDER: President Jim Paul called the in-person and Zoom meeting to order at 7:00 pm. He hosted, presided over the meeting, and took minutes. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

ATTENDANCE: In addition to Jim Paul, Christine and Max Michels attended in-person; and Daron Kinzinger, Steve Monts, Ken Ponton, Gary Seiner, Penny and Phil Stickney, and Ellen Stringer attended via Zoom.

PRESENTATION: The membership then discussed “Who are we?”—from the March/April 2023 issue of BGHS News eletter). No one present had the answer, but Jim said that Norma Meier via email had correctly identified the couple as Domitilde and Charles Byron.

MINUTES: The minutes of the December 1, 2022 meeting were approved. The motion was made by Steve and seconded by Max. Motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: Steve provided the bank balances as of the end of February: general account \$19,681.16; log schoolhouse account \$6874.18; windows account \$511.23; and CFKRV pass through investment \$6,523.23. Steve stated that he has completed the information for the BGHS Illinois Tax Exemption, and it has been reapproved until February 1, 2028. Gary made a motion to accept the treasurer’s report and pay the bills. Ken seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY REPORT: Christine reviewed an email sent to the BGHS regarding Sara Phalen’s request. She represents the Illinois Museum Association, and would like Jim to join their April conference and speak about the log schoolhouse reconstruction. **Jim will follow up with her.**

EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT COLLECTION COMMITTEE REPORT: None.

CURATOR’S REPORT: Gary stated that he has moved several items: the Letourneau rocker is now in the parlor, Adrien Richard’s child desk is upstairs, a patterned cloth chair is in the meeting room, Bernice Bisailon’s clock is in the “coffee room”, a chime clock is in the dining room. Gary wishes to hold off on accepting new artifacts with some exceptions. He requests that the north door to the parlor be kept closed. **He would like the washing machine removed. He also would like someone to correct the address area on the donation/acquisition form since the BGHS only has a PO Box. Gary also asked Jim to check if the village display cases have locks on the doors.**

MEMBERSHIP: From Bonnie’s email—53 Lifetime, 7 New, 52 Renewed Memberships, and 17 former members not paid. Total members are 112.

WAYS AND MEANS:

- Jim explained the new sign up procedure for volunteering.
- Ellen gave an update on the December 3 craft show. It is almost full. The July 4 show is ½ full. She requested that Daron sign the 2024 contract with the Fair Grounds ASAP.

He said he could not until April. **Jim will take care of it before he leaves on a trip on March 21.**

- Jim re-announced the date for the *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner: Friday September 15, 2023.
- **Jim forgot to discuss this agenda item: Preparation for celebration of log schoolhouse's Village of Bourbonnais and Kankakee County historic landmark designation.**
- Daron asked if the remnant log pieces of the log schoolhouse could be used to raise donations. **Daron, Gary, and Ken will pursue this possibility.**
- Daron requested that everyone stay open to new fund raising opportunities. Jim suggested that we channel our energy and resources into the BGHS's current three successful fund raising events: 2 craft shows that raise funds for the general account, and the *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner which raises funds for the log schoolhouse account.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS:

- Steve gave a report on his work on the log schoolhouse landscaping. The three bids should be forthcoming. Daron mentioned the neighbor sump pump discharge issue. **Ken and Jim will consult with Laurie Cyr about this issue.**
- The membership approved Gary's sketch of the gazebo to be constructed by Levi Lawson for his Eagle Scout work. Ken made the motion and it was seconded by Christine. Motion carried.
- Jim recommended the bids from Rid All Pest Solutions for termite and pest control in the log schoolhouse. The termite chemical control will be \$465 for 5 years and \$95 annual treatment. The pest/rodent control will be \$75 quarterly with an initial service charge of \$125. Ken made the motion and it was seconded by Steve. Motion carried. This will now be submitted for board approval.
- Daron mentioned again that some repairs are needed in the home/museum upstairs east side wall plaster, back porch repainting, and future roof repairs/replacement for the Letourneau Home/Museum. **He wondered who could complete this work and how much it will cost.**
- The cedar fence on the northwest corner of the museum campus was discussed. The village Building Commission has approved fencing up to 60' along the sidewalk and 60' from sidewalk along boundary with apartment owner property, and up to 4' tall. A donor has earmarked his donation (there remains about \$2000 of that donation in the general account) for the fence construction. When Ken returns from Florida, he and Jim will supervise the construction this spring.
- Daron mentioned that there is a problem with the color of the log schoolhouse floor.
- Gary volunteered to replace or refill the fire extinguishers for the Letourneau Home/Museum.
- A new flag is needed. **Gary will replace.**
- **Gary and Daron are investigating the best alarm system and price for both the Letourneau Home/Museum and log schoolhouse.**
- Upon the village request to save heating cost, the membership agreed to lower the thermostat in winter to 65 degrees when the Letourneau Home/Museum is not in use.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Daron stated that his editing of the bylaws (drafted by Jim) is not completed. The draft provides language for restructuring of the BGHS.**

- Jim reminded everyone about Dr. Jim Healy’s portrayal of Louis Jolliet in “A Solid Path through Water” this Saturday March 11 at noon at the Kankakee Public Library. The BGHS and the library are sponsoring this premier performance.
- Daron reminded everyone about the Noel LeVasseur and George Letourneau signed documents that we received from a donor in Las Vegas. They are in the safe.

NEW BUSINESS:

- The next BGHS membership meeting will be in-person and Zoom at 7:00 pm on Thursday April 6, 2023.
- Jim announced the following special BGHS dates for 2022: 3/11, 4/3 (Public Hearing for log schoolhouse), 6/17 (Melanie Holmes book signing), and 9/15 (*Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner).
- Jim encouraged members and friends of the BGHS to sign up online for volunteering for the April 2 and April 16 open houses, and other events for 2023.
- Jim stated that he has completed a slide show of the *Log Schoolhouse Chronology from 1837 to the Present*.
- Jim read the March 6, 2023 email from Richard Lewis of the Country School Association of America: “Our committee met and you will be pleased to know that we approved your application for entry into the National Schoolhouse Register”. Jim asked the members to approve \$200 from the log schoolhouse account for the CSAA marker which can be placed in the log schoolhouse. He will pick it up in League City, Texas, while visiting his family in the area. Ken made the motion and Max seconded it. Motion was approved.
- Jim announced that at the end of 2023, Laurel will resign from her role in posting items on our website and Face Book. He requested that members seek out someone who can volunteer to help in these matters.
- Jim stated that his self-guided tours of the Letourneau Home/Museum and Gardens and log schoolhouse are now on the BGHS website under Museum Campus.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Paul