

BOURBONNAIS GROVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP MEETING—May 11, 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, Charles Balesi, Christine and Max Michels, Steve Monts, Ken Ponton, and Dave Zinanni attended in-person; and Bonnie Bergeron, Daron Kinzinger, Doris O'Connor, Josue Savoie, Gary Seiner, and Ellen Stringer attended via Zoom.

PRESENTATION: The membership then discussed “What am I today?”—from the May/June 2023 issue of BGHS News eletter). No one knew the answer: the former LaMarre Confectionary is today the Library Bar.

MINUTES: The April 6, 2023, meeting minutes were approved. The motion was made by Ken and seconded by Max. Motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: Steve provided the bank balances as of the end of April: general account \$22,091.16; log schoolhouse account \$6614.93; windows account \$521.29; and CFKRV pass through investment \$6,534.23 (Steve corrected the amount stated in the March minutes). Steve stated that he has no update on the earnings of the CFKRV investment. Charles made a motion to accept the treasurer’s report and pay the bills. Bonnie seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY REPORT: Christine mentioned that Laurel will address the email from Greg Sturgeon requesting information about the Sturgeon Clan of the Potawatomi. Christine also reviewed an email from Kaitlan Crite congratulating the BGHS/French-Canadian Heritage Corridor for being in Melanie Holmes’s new book.

EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT COLLECTION COMMITTEE REPORT: Ken is willing to cut down the partially dead Japanese umbrella pine tree in the back yard. Jim requested a moratorium on that issue until Mary Ann Lambert can be consulted (the pine tree is part of her adopted garden), and membership approval.

CURATOR’S REPORT: Gary stated that he:

- Made an artifact spreadsheet starting with item G-1
- Thanked Ken for making a rope bed wrench to display in the upstairs bedroom
- Is creating new ways to show off more items for display like the bedspread that took 50 years to create from 1941-91
- Made a list of items for donation, switching out, or replacing
- Is concerned about the log pieces, from the log schoolhouse, that are on the back porch
- Jim has given Laurie Cyr Gary’s sketch of locks for the Community Room display cases
- And Marcia are repricing some books so that they are all consistent with the prices advertised.

MEMBERSHIP: Bonnie stated that Laurel has ordered new membership cards which should arrive on May 19. She and Laurel will clean up the data base and send out new membership

cards. Current membership is 53 Lifetime, 7 New, 52 Renewed Memberships, and 17 former members not paid—total members are 112. **Bonnie said that she will resign as Membership Chairperson at the end of 2023.**

WAYS AND MEANS:

- Ellen stated that there are 17-18 spaces still available for the July 4 *Les Artisans* Arts and Craft Show—this is $\frac{3}{4}$ full and ahead of schedule. **She wondered if the BGHS wanted to sell artifacts at the craft show. Ellen will place posters and requested help on getting them into the community.** She will also work with the Friendship Festival Committee to request a donation for the craft show.
- Jim once again explained the new sign up procedure for volunteering
- Jim re-announced the date for the *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner has been changed to Tuesday October 17
- Jim again asked the membership to begin thinking about preparation for celebration of log schoolhouse's Village of Bourbonnais and Kankakee County historic landmark designation

BUILDING AND GROUNDS:

- Steve said that the log schoolhouse landscaping will commence around mid-June and should take 1-2 days to complete.
- Jim mentioned that Angi be used as a resource to find someone to complete repairs as needed for the home/museum upstairs east side wall plaster, back porch repainting, and future roof repairs/replacement for the Letourneau Home/Museum.
- **Jim will ask Bisailon Rid All if the log pieces on the back porch can be treated.**
- Jim supervised the Bisailon Rid All termite treatment and pest control of the log schoolhouse and pest control of the Letourneau Home/Museum.
- Jim supervised the tune up of the AC in the Letourneau Home/Museum.
- Ken said that he spoke to Levi Lawson about his Eagle Scout project. Levi plans to do the work in August. The BGHS will not need to fund the project, but someone will need to supervise.
- Regarding the alarm system, Gary asked if we had a contract with the current provider. Steve said that he pays per quarter and knows of no contract.
- The cedar fencing along the northwest corner of the museum campus has been now denied by the village Building Commission. The village is pursuing the idea of planting an arbor vitae along the west boundary to hide the trash bins and driveway.
- Jim mentioned that Camp MOSH will go from July 9-14, and asked for a volunteer to contact the supervisor in order to plan cleaning of the Letourneau Home/Museum and log schoolhouse as well as garden grooming. Doris O'Connor volunteered to work on this project.
- Jim requested a garden work session for Saturday May 11 to prepare the iris (*fleur-de-lis*) garden beds.
- Jim and Gary re-introduced the concept of building an 1883 era type barn (about the size of a three-car garage) to house artifacts and displays.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Daron stated that his editing of the bylaws (drafted by Jim and emailed to Daron on 3/2/22) is not completed. The draft provides language for restructuring of the BGHS.
- Jim requested that members help in the search for a new BGHS IT Director.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Because of Jim's travel schedule, the membership agreed that the next BGHS membership meeting will be in-person and Zoom at 7:00 pm on Thursday June 22..
- Jim announced special BGHS dates for 2023.
- Jim encouraged members and friends of the BGHS to sign up online for volunteering for upcoming open houses, and other events for 2023.
- Jim re-emphasized the need for volunteers on the Perry Farm Living History Advisory Committee. Daron asked if there would be a BTPD issue with the open meetings act. Dave said that he would check it out.
- Jim invited everyone to attend the upcoming French Heritage Corridor's Third Annual Conference in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, from June 15-17.
- Jim mentioned that the Log Schoolhouse Advisory Committee meeting has been changed to June 20 at 3:30 pm.
- Jim stated that Melanie Holmes has requested that individuals who plan to attend her June 17 book signing at the Bradley House to please RSVP.
- Jim said that he is working on a tour document *Let's Spend the Weekend in Illinois's French-Canadian Heritage Corridor* and a screen play *Hooray Bourbonnais Deux*.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm. Motion was made by Bonnie and seconded by Daron. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Paul