

**Germania Historical Society, Inc.**  
**General Membership Meeting - Sunday, February 4, 2024**  
**10:00 a.m. at the Longbranch Saloon, Germania, WI**

**MINUTES**

Board members present: President Kevin DeCramer, Vice President Kim Ross,  
Secretary Carole DeCramer  
Board members absent: Missy Heller

Attendees: Miles Chambers, Nathan Chambers, Diane Vosen, Mike Vosen,  
Don Heller, Jerry Ross, John Serio, Thomas Gaulke, Jon Syverson, Linda Syverson,  
Marian Heller, Terry Wargula, Edith Wargula, Ronda Goldsmith, Sue Schatzke, Neal  
Cain, Jill Cain, Jayne Pickart, Bob Pickart

**Call to order and welcome**

10:06 a.m. Kevin DeCramer welcomed the attendees and reminded everyone to sign in. Kim Ross noted that it is important to make sure all attendees sign in because, if the GHSI is approved for affiliation with the Wisconsin State Historical Society, annual reports will be submitted to the State and attendance for each meeting is a reporting requirement.

**Approve agenda**

Motion by John Serio/Jill Cain, unanimously carried, the agenda was approved as presented.

**Approve minutes of 11/05/2023**

It was noted in the minutes that, when discussing the cable placement between the school and the shed, two individuals who helped with that project were omitted. The four individuals who were responsible for that placement include Mike Vosen, Don Heller, Ryan Syverson, and Jon Syverson.

Motion by Marian Heller/Sue Schatzke, unanimously carried, to approve the amended minutes.

There was discussion on the most efficient way of getting the agenda and minutes to be approved to the members giving everyone an opportunity to read through everything before the meeting. It was decided that placing those items in the Longbranch would not be the best idea because not everyone is able to go there to pick up copies. The consensus was that it would be best to email agendas and minutes to the members ahead of time giving them an opportunity to read and note questions and corrections/amendments.

Motion by Jill Cain/Ronda Goldsmith, unanimously carried, to approve the agenda and minutes being emailed to the attendees prior to each month's meeting.

### **Approve treasurer's report**

Kim Ross presented the report in Missy Heller's absence.

Beginning balance: \$21,292.66

#### Deposits:

October \$240.00

November \$382.00

December 0

Gun raffle: \$200.00

Membership dues \$25.00

Total deposits \$847.00

#### Expenses:

Dept. of Finance \$25.00

Adams Electric \$58.40

Total expenses: \$83.40

Year-end balance: \$22,077.81

There was discussion regarding the electric bill for the church. The expense seemed high since there is no electricity running in the church. Mike Vosen will investigate if that's the normal rate.

Motion by Tom Gaulke/John Serio, unanimously carried, to approve the treasurer's report as presented.

### **Committee reports:**

- Time capsule (Kim Ross)

A meeting will be scheduled so that people will then be able to send items that they'd like included in the capsule. John Weckwerth will be back in the area by May 1<sup>st</sup> to put items on the flash drive that will be included in the capsule. Items will need to be received by the end of May. The weekend after July 4<sup>th</sup> is the date for the capsule closure.

- Creamery (Jill Cain)

No update currently. The committee will continue when the weather permits. Mike Vosen stated that, despite the weather, he'd like to have someone just look at the site and report back.

- Maintenance projects at school (Bob Pickart)

Bob will call Adams Columbia Electric Company (ACEC) to get a price for getting electricity to the school. Some suggestions included: reminding ACEC that GHHSI is a non-profit organization in the event there is a discount for such organizations, a circuit and/or meter may be required before being connected, sewer and water may also have to

be obtained before being connected.

- Bathrooms in school (Don Heller)

When it warms up, the plan is to start by removing all the junk.

- Outhouse restoration (Kevin DeCramer)

No update currently.

- School playground equipment (Jon Syverson)

Jon has written a letter to BCI Burke Playground Equipment (Fond du Lac) asking if they'd be interested in helping with the school playground equipment. Kevin DeCramer reviewed the letter and offered suggestions. Jon will update and send the letter to BCI. Jon would also like to send a similar letter to the Walmart corporation. Bob Pickart said that he knows someone at Burke and will ask if it's possible to go through the archies to see if there is any information on the original school equipment. Kevin DeCramer asked if the plan is to have the playground equipment as functional equipment or just as something informational. The swings and teeter totter could be used, but the slide may be another issue. Tom Gaulke stated that insurance may be an issue if the equipment is being used.

### **Ongoing project reports:**

- ACEC grant (Kevin DeCramer)

A written estimate for a project for which funding will be requested is needed before an application can be submitted.

- Go Fund Me page (Kim Ross)

Kim reported that, after posting the Go Fund Me link on her personal Facebook page, several of her friends used the link to donate to GHSI. The link will be sent out to the members to post on their personal Facebook pages. Paypal just sent a payout check for \$1364.10.

- Membership director's report (Kim Ross)

The membership information is slowly making its way to Kim. There are members who pay one year and not the next. It's impossible to know who wants to keep their membership or no longer be involved. A membership dues reminder will be sent to those individuals who have not yet paid.

- Technology/social media update (Kim Ross)

Before moving to Florida, John Weckwerth was in charge of the technology/social media for GHSI. When he comes back in the spring, he'll be working with Kim on the time capsule flash drive and other aspects of technology (Facebook and the website) he has used for GHSI.

- Raffle, and/or promotional programs updates (Don Heller)

The committee will meet and obtain another gun for a raffle.

- School cleaning (Sue Schatzke)

The individual who will do the cleaning will begin after the bathroom work is completed.

- Update on school cable (Missy Heller)

No update.

- Window at school (Mike Vosen)

The window above the school door needed to be replaced. Mike bought a replacement window from Window World for \$450.76. GHSI will reimburse him for that expense. Don Heller will install the window.  
and Don.

### **New business:**

- Bonfire – Kevin DeCramer explained that there is a large brush pile by the school because of cleaning up around the property line. After asking the members if there would be an interest in having another bonfire, the consensus was a resounding yes. This will be placed on a future agenda.

- Germania Princeton papers chronicle  
Kevin DeCramer reported that he has begun transcribing Germania-related notices from the digital copies of the Princeton newspapers created by the Princeton Historical Society. How to utilize this resource will be discussed at a future meeting.

- Fund raising ideas  
Kim met with a floral business in Coloma regarding a flower basket sale. Since the deadline for this year is in two weeks, it's too late to do it this year, but it's something to think about for next year. The baskets would cost \$22 each and be sold for between \$35 and \$40. Members would sell the baskets a couple of months ahead. The baskets would then be delivered to the Longbranch, and members would be responsible for delivering them to their buyers. GHSI could potentially make approximately \$1800. Other fundraising ideas that were discussed were a pizza sale and a cemetery walk.

### **Agenda item suggestions (for next meeting)**

- Bonfire date

### **Next meeting date**

March 3, 2024, 10 a.m. at the Longbranch

### **Adjournment**

11:13 a.m. Motion by Jon Syverson/Tom Gaulke, unanimously carried, to adjourn.

### **Approved**

March 3, 2024