Sun, Jun 28, 15:00 (1 hr 1 min)

Stemtown Historical Society June Meeting

Notes

Meeting Opening and Minutes

- The meeting was called to order by Megan Knieriemen on June 28th, 2026, at 3:01 PM with Jill Greenslade, Kellan Wellington, Sharon Kuen, and Andrew Jones present.
- The board opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.
- A motion was made by Jill Greenslade and seconded by Andrew Jones to dispense with the reading and approve the prior meeting minutes from March; the motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report and Bell Tower Updates

- Treasurer Andrew Jones reported a current balance of $95,952.11 across all accounts and noted that the organization is currently under budget for the year.
- The final bell tower payment of $12,432 was made, though total donations fell $2,789 short of the cost, requiring the difference to be covered by the O&E fund.
- The America 250 fund currently holds $646.51, with $250 earmarked for a home decorating contest.
- Megan noted a leaking issue in the bell tower where water drips off the rope; the contractor will return to attempt to seal it, or a decorative urn will be used to catch the water.
- Mike Bordner is preparing quotes for bell tower dedication plaques, including options for carved or bell-themed designs.
- The treasurer's report was approved following a motion by Jill and a second by Kellen.

Museum Operations and Facilities

- The board voted to close the museum on Sunday, July 5th, due to the holiday weekend; volunteers are still needed for coverage on July 8th and 22nd.

- Megan is discussing the secretary position with volunteer Kim Clevenger, who has been assisting with filing, office cleaning, and newspaper digitization research.
- Dave installed a new electrical outlet under the bulletin board for the alarm system.
- Plans are underway to mount a large television in the front area for donor recognition; Megan and Derek will coordinate the installation.
- The board discussed moving high-mounted electrical outlets to a more reachable height, with quotes ranging from $150 to $250 depending on the location and conduit needs.

Collections and Deaccessioning

- Brenda Stoltz recommended the deaccessioning of a stamp collection from the 1990s and 2000s as it lacks historic value for the museum.
- The board suggested contacting other museums or private collectors for the stamps rather than disposing of them.
- Volunteer Lori has offered to assist with entering data into the Past Perfect software to track artifact locations and inventory.
- Kim Clevenger is leading an effort to clean out the kids' toy room to create more efficient storage space for collections.
- Megan discussed the potential for a subscription to newspapers.com to aid in local history research, noting a cost of approximately $75 for six months, though she is seeking nonprofit pricing.

Upcoming Events and Outreach

- The July 3rd parade will feature a covered wagon float sponsored by Elaine Gittinger, who is also sewing pioneer costumes for the participants.
- The Bell Tower Dedication and Ice Cream Social are scheduled for August 9th, with the dedication ceremony beginning at 11:45 AM and the bell ringing at noon.
- For the ice cream social, Pampered Chef will host a table and donate 30% of sales back to the museum; Sharon Kuen will manage a 50/50 raffle.
- The board approved a $15 expenditure for an ice cream social banner following a motion by Andrew and a second by Megan.

- Megan is coordinating with Linda Risner of the Alumni Association to update the alumni book before reordering copies from MLAD.

Cemetery Projects and Research

- A history-focused cemetery tour is planned for October 31st at 8:00 PM, featuring volunteers stationed at specific headstones to read biographical information.
- Historical figures identified for the tour include Jacob Stem, Oscar Myers, Henry Johnson, Claude Young, and Robert Sours, among others.
- Megan and Sharon have been working on cemetery beautification, including planting flowers donated by Drowns in various planters.
- The cemetery committee is working on updating maps and exploring the use of QR codes on gravestones to provide digital biographies of the deceased.

Grants and Future Planning

- The museum recently received a $1,500 Gilmore grant for camera system expansion and $500 from Walmart for event supplies.
- Megan plans to apply for a $10,000 grant for electrical upgrades and LED lighting; Dave will provide a separated quote for labor and materials to support the application.
- Pat is still being consulted regarding zoning and future expansion plans to determine the feasible building size for a new facility.
- Megan shared information about the Allen Irey Center in Tiffin as a potential resource for senior programming and fundraising ideas.
- A future barbecue fundraiser in collaboration with the Lions Club is being considered for late fall.

Suggested Action Items

- Megan to retrieve the bell tower key from the contractor.
- Megan to follow up with Mike Bordner for bell tower plaque quotes and designs.
- Megan to contact Pat for an update on zoning and building expansion capacity.
- Megan to coordinate with Derek and additional volunteers to mount the large television.

- Megan to speak with Linda Risner regarding deceased status updates for the alumni book.
- Andrew to provide Megan with the addresses of bell tower donors for dedication invitations.
- Andrew to send Megan the "thank you" card graphic created by Stephanie for printing.
- Megan to find a driver for the truck or side-by-side for the July 3rd parade float.
- Dave to install the new faucet in the downstairs bathroom once the invoice is processed.
- Dave to provide Megan with an updated and itemized electrical/LED quote for the grant application.
- Megan to contact the Lions Club to discuss the logistics of a barbecue fundraiser.
- Megan to obtain final nonprofit pricing for a newspapers.com subscription.
- Andrew to provide Megan with the name of the home decorating contest winner by July 1st for check issuance.