Meeting of the Board of Directors

Traverse Area Historical Society

February 5, 2019

Society’s Registered Office

627 Eastwood, Traverse City.

Attendees: Stephen Siciliano, Peg Siciliano, Fred Anderson,

Sharon Jennings, Jenny Loup, Jim Warner, Matt Groleau, Larry Hains

Guest: Marty Scarbrough - Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Siciliano at 6:05 PM.

**Secretary’s Report**: the minutes of the January Board meeting had been provided to board members prior to the February meeting. Mr. Anderson moved, and Ms. Jennings seconded, that the minutes be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer’s Report**

TAHS account balance is $26,743.05

-Petertyl Fund - $ 7,557.11

-Lautner Fund - $ 300.99

-General Fund- $ 8,804.95

-CD Investment- $10,000.00

\*It was noted that ½ ($5,000) of the CD came from General Fund; ½ ($5,000) from Lautner Fund

\*$45 interest was made on CD for first three months.

\*Ms. Loup agreed to later make contact with Mr. Hains and Ms. Jennings to further explain how to read PayPal information.

\*Post Office box rate went up $10 this year.

\*Please let Mr. Hains know when you use Copy Central.

\*Community Foundation funds coming in March will be for $1,307.00.

**President’s Report**

1. Strategic use of Petertyl Fund
2. Mr. Anderson urged that the TAHS Board should, in the foreseeable future, determine how much they would like to see the Petertyl Fund grow. Discussion was held on how to determine that figure.
3. It was agreed that Petertyl Fund use should include continued support for the Michigan History Day scholarships, and perhaps additional funding for supplies. Ms. Siciliano will contact the appropriate people to see what those supplies might be.
4. The Board already agreed to use Petertyl funds for the Archival Intern stipend at TADL for summer 2019. Ms. Siciliano noted that the structuring of that internship is being examined by the TADL attorney to see if the current structure will comply with TADL Union rules. She will monitor this situation.
5. Publications. Ms. Loup will look into how the Petertyl Fund could be used to underwrite local history publication efforts.
6. Scholarships – Ms. Jennings will check with TCAPS Secondary teachers to discuss a way to award scholarships for students attending college to study history.
7. Mr. Groleau suggested, and will write up a proposal, for targeting certain payments to the TAHS to go into the Petertyl Fund: For example, this could include Lifetime memberships.
8. Mr. Anderson will look into making estate planning a source of funds for the TAHS.
9. Mr. Siciliano suggested that at the next Board Meeting we discuss rebalancing the Society’s fund balance among the Petertyl Fund, operational funds and higher yielding investments.
10. Board Meeting location: It was agreed that the TAHS will try moving its Board meeting location to TADL in the Thirlby Room. The date will remain the same, with the meeting starting at 6:30. It was suggested that people type up and mail out their reports head of the meeting. Ms. Loup will schedule the Thirlby Room from 6:30 – 8:30, through June, on these dates: 3/5; 4/2; 5/7; 6/4.
11. City Meeting

Mr. Anderson reported on his and Ms. Siciliano’s meeting with Traverse City Assistant Manager Penny Hill. Unexpectedly City Manager Marty Colburn also attended. Ms. Hill and Mr. Colburn declined to support our two requests to allow a TAHS representative to tour the artifact storage or to allow the near-term use of Con Foster artifacts in outside displays (such as at the Minervini State Hospital display). Ms. Hill and Mr. Colburn did agree to allow Ms. Siciliano to view the storage areas at the Carnegie complex while she assists Ms. Hill in examining History Center records. For those requests that were not approved, our next step is to reach out to City Commission members.

1. Possible TAHS office space: The realtor Mr. Hains contacted has not gotten back with him. Ms. Loup will get information on space at the Leelanau Studios at the corner of M22 and Cedar Run Road.
2. Storage Capacity: Mr. Hains, Warner and Groleau did not get to the storage unit to examine its contents due to the cold weather. They hope to get there before the next Board meeting.

**Committee Reports**

1. Marketing

Newsletter: Mr. Anderson asked the exact address of the TAHS web page, and asked if we could eliminate “word press” out of our domain name. Ms. Loup thinks she can accomplish that.

Next newsletter: It was suggested that the next newsletter include an article on the staffing changes for the historic archives at TADL. Ms. Siciliano will contact Gail Parsons about her providing the article.

Hitchcock/Goodale Foundation project: Matt is going to talk to neighbors and other interested parties about the project.

State Hospital Museum: Mr. Groleau reported on his, Ms. Siciliano and Ms. Eitniear’s meeting with the Minervini Museum representatives including Ray Minervini, Jr. By February 18th Ms. Siciliano will have draft of a timeline for display in the museum, and Ms. Eitniear will have drafts of the text for various sections of the main display areas. Those will then be revised for March presentation to the Minervini representatives. They would like an opening over Memorial Day Weekend.

Surveys: Mr. Groleau has hit a roadblock in not being able to access an e-mail list of members only. He will contact Amy Barritt about this.

1. Membership

Ms. Jennings reported that membership has increased to 179.

Ms. Jennings will have more stationary printed, and will compare printing prices between various printers.

1. Program and Events

Ms. Loup reported on the winter/spring events:

February 17th (we have changed our programs to Saturday for the rest of this year): – Brian McCall – Benzie Christmas Truce 1914.

March – Kathy Firestone - Greilickville Maritime History

April - Richard Fidler tentatively will speak on the development of school policies and curriculum in Northern Michigan.

May – Russ Soyring on City development.

**History Salons:** The TAHS will join with 1-2-3 Speak Easy to hold a once-a-month “History Salon” on Sundays, for three months: March 10, April 14th and May 12th, 5pm – 7pm. Christine, 1-2-3’s owner, is very interested in local history, and reached out to the TAHS looking for a way to partner with them. Each evening will be themed, with designated discussion leaders guiding a round robin discussion. Themes for the first three evenings are: Uncouth Characters; Illicit Operations; Mothers of the North

1. Archives

Ms. Siciliano shared a request from the Traverse Area District Library for the Society to support their Collaborative Library Services Grant. Mr. Groleau made a motion to support the request. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comment**

Peg Siciliano announced that Grace Terry, who was a long-time Traverse City local history supporter (as is her son, Steve), passed away in Texas. She and Steve had moved to Texas to be near family.

Education Program – Ms. Jennings discussed her hope that the TAHS could implement a program in the school system to bring local history into the classroom. She will contact Tak Ready.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10.