

Meeting of the Board of Directors
Traverse Area Historical Society
February 20, 2017 – 6:00PM – Siciliano Residence

Attendees: Stephen Siciliano, Fred Anderson, Larry Hains, Virginia LeClaire, Julie Schopieray, Peg Siciliano, Sharon Jennings, Jim Warner
Guest: Matthew Groleau

The meeting was called to order by President Siciliano. There were no adjustments to the agenda.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the January 24, 2017 meeting had been distributed. Mr. Hains moved and Mr. Anderson seconded that they be approved. This passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

- 1.) Modems – The internet modem has been returned to Charter. The telephone modem is still due to be returned but has not been located to date. Mr. Hains will check boxes in his garage to see if it might be there. We are due a refund of approximately \$598.00.
- 2.) Petertyl Account – The Siciliano challenge has resulted in several donations to this account. The current balance is now \$677.11. Ms. Jennings agrees to send thank you notes to those donating.
- 3.) General Account – The current balance is \$5935.49 with Mr. Hains holding around \$300 from book sales and recent donations to be deposited tomorrow. He reported that he has sold \$1778.00 in books in recent library parking lot sales, including three sets of the Bob Wilson volumes, Bob Wilhelm's recent book, and many older books that were published years ago. (Mr. Hains complete report is Attachment A.)
- 4.) City Utility Account – We still owe \$900 to the city from utilities unpaid from past years. Ms. LeClaire moved and Ms. Jennings seconded that Mr. Hains be authorized to pay off the balance of this bill. The motion passed with 5 voting in favor and 3 opposed.
- 5.) The Gallant Fourteenth – We have approximately 60 copies of this book which is about Indiana soldiers in the Civil War. We have been charging \$7.00, but Mr. Hains would like to drop the price to hopefully increase sales. It was agreed that he could lower the price as he sees fit.
- 6.) Track Phone – Ms. Siciliano has been using the new track phone and states that it has been working well. It was suggested that when returning calls that the person's land line could be used to decrease the number of minutes used.
- 7.) Final Review and Establishment of the 2017 Budget – The budget drafted at the previous meeting (Attachment B) was reviewed line by line and final adjustments made (Attachment C). Mr. Warner moved and Ms. Jennings seconded that we adopt this budget. This passed unanimously.
- 8.) Liability Insurance – An extensive discussion was held regarding the issue of liability insurance for the board. Five board members have umbrella policies which cover them. Three do not. Mr. Hains contacted his agent and was told it would cost him \$180-\$200 to have an umbrella policy. Ms. Jennings was told by her agent that they could not provide her such a policy. Mr. Warner had not researched this. It was decided to conduct further

research on this matter. Ms. LeClaire will contact her State Farm agent to see what a policy for the board would cost; she pays \$91 annually for an individual policy.

Chair Report

- 1.) Community Foundation – Dr. Siciliano had received a communication from the Community Foundation informing us that the 2017 grant for TAHS would be \$1280.00. (Attachment D)
- 2.) Grand Traverse Regional Cultural Center Invitation – A letter dated January 31, 2016 invited TAHS to register with this new organization which desires to solicit membership of various history related organizations within the greater community (Attachment E). Although not mentioned in this letter, they had previously publicized that they would like to establish a Traverse City State Hospital museum on the old hospital grounds. Although there was much support for the establishment of a museum, the board had a number of questions about the Center’s leadership, mission, and purposes. This can be reviewed in the future.
- 3.) Location and Dates of Future Board Meetings – Ms. LeClaire had researched meeting at the Thirlby Room at TADL and found that all Mondays were not available due to library activities. A survey of the group found that one person could not meet on Wednesdays and another could not meet on any Thursday. It was decided that Ms. LeClaire would research the possibility of Tuesdays, starting with the first Tuesday of the month.
- 4.) Using our email Blast System for Other Historical Organizations – TAHS has been approached by other historic groups in the past about using our email list to advertize activities of their organizations. After discussion, Ms. Siciliano moved and Ms. LeClaire seconded that an email blast be sent to our membership to see what their feelings are. This passed unanimously and Ms. Siciliano agreed that she would send the survey and report at the next meeting.

Committee Reports

- 1.) Membership – Ms. Jennings reported that we have 184 members at this time. She has noted some discrepancies between older and current membership lists. She will discuss this with Amy Barritt.
- 2.) Programs and Events –
 - a.) Ms. Siciliano and Mr. Anderson met with Commissioner Gary Howe who wants to put historic plaques on buildings in about 10 locations throughout the city. Amy Barritt and Deb Lake are also members of this committee. There would be no financial obligation by the TAHS, but we could facilitate their selection of pictures and perhaps choice of locations.
 - b.) A meeting of the Tour Group occurred earlier today. It consisted of Peg S., Ms. Jennings, Mr. Hains, Mr. Anderson and Richard Fidler. Mr. Fidler has agreed to do the downtown tours this summer, starting June 18. There is some interest in developing a Warehouse/Slabtown Tour (Ms. Siciliano) and a Central/Old Town Tour (Mr. Anderson). Ms. LeClaire will continue to coordinate the Cemetery Tours which she felt can also start June 18. Peg S. will do the Halloween Cemetery Tours. It was agreed that we definitely need more volunteers if we are going to expand and continue these events.

Public Comment: Mr. Groleau mentioned that in his experience with non profits, it is best to keep the email blast for members only and to use the web site and social media for the benefit of outsiders.

The meeting closed at 8:05 PM. The next meeting will be at the Siciliano residence on Tuesday March 7, 2017 at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Virginia LeClaire, Recording Secretary