

**Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Traverse Area Historical Society  
August 15, 2016 – Carnegie Building – 6:00 PM**

Board Members in Attendance: Stephen Siciliano, Larry Hains, Virginia LeClaire, Peg Siciliano, Sharon Jennings, Jim Warner, Julie Schopieray, Fred Anderson  
Guests: Marly Hanson, Amy Barritt

The meeting opened as scheduled. There were no changes to the agenda. The minutes of the previous meeting of July 18, 2016 were reviewed and no corrections or additions suggested. Ms. Jennings moved and Ms. Schopieray seconded that the minutes be approved. This passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report was delivered by Mr. Hains. There is \$4482.20 in the checking account, of which \$2000.00 is the Rotary Grant which will go to the library for suitable containers for the archives. There is \$520.00 to be deposited and one outstanding bill to Charter for \$2.20. Ms. Barritt reported that the library has spent the Rotary Grant monies. Mr. Hains then moved and Mr. Anderson seconded that a check for \$2000 be written to the library. This passed unanimously. Board members were provided with a copy of the most recent bank statement and a Profit & Loss Statement for June 1 through August 15, 2016. These reports are provided as Attachment A.

Chair Report –

Progress on Vacating: Peg S. reported to the group on the progress of cleaning up the old office so that the furniture can be easily viewed for possible sale. There are still a number of items to be transferred to TADL, some to be disposed of, and others to be retained at least temporarily. Her entire report is Attachment B. Ms. Schopieray reported that she has been unable to contact her friend who was interested in purchasing the Victorian furniture with a possible connection to Perry Hannah.

In an unrelated matter, Peg S. reported that Deb Lake had contacted Ms. Barritt who had contacted Peg S. about the possibility of assisting Gary Howe who has an interest in placing historic plaques downtown. TAHS would have no financial investment with this project, merely would assist in finding appropriate images for them. No one was opposed to this activity.

Committee Reports

- 1.) Communications – Ms. Barritt reported that the updated web site has recently been set up. An email needs to be sent to Leelanau Communications to let them know that we no longer will need their services; Mr. Siciliano agrees to do this. Ms. Barritt was interested in what items the board would like to see on the site. Suggestions were: Tours, Programs, Membership Information, Bylaws, Newsletters, and Minutes of the Board. Mr. Siciliano is working on

an article for the upcoming Newsletter which he will send to Mr. Fidler who sends reviewed articles on to Bill Ruesink for formatting.

- 2.) Membership – Ms. Jennings is still working on the membership list and is now able to work from home. There are now about 200 people on the email blast list as non members have been added, such as tour participants. This makes it somewhat difficult to send out “members only” items. In July, \$200 was taken in for memberships and \$175 for donations. Once again the membership categories were discussed. Ms. Jennings moved that TAHS add a Lifetime Membership for \$1000.00 and to change the Business Membership to Business/Institutional at \$100.00. This passed unanimously. Several ideas were discussed that would make it easier to get the membership form out to non members. One was to put it on the web site so they could print it off and another was to provide it during the tours and other activities.
- 3.) Archives – No report.
- 4.) Bylaws - An extensive discussion lasting over an hour was held regarding changes the board is interested in making to the bylaws, along with the rationale for such changes. The 2015 document was scrutinized line by line. At the conclusion, Mr. Hains moved and Ms. Jennings seconded that the proposed bylaw changes be accepted by the board. This passed unanimously. It was decided that prior to the Annual Meeting in October, a copy of four reports would be sent to the membership: the existing (2015) bylaws, the existing bylaws with track changes showing the recommended revisions, a document explaining the rationale behind the suggested changes, and a clean copy of the new bylaws should they be accepted by the membership. These documents will also be placed on the web site and several hard copies will be available at the Annual Meeting.
- 5.) Program and Events
  - a. Cemetery Tours – These have gone quite well. Between 6 and 30 participants have been in attendance each week. Ms. LeClaire asked if there was any objection to passing out copies of the book *Old Traverse City* to the participants and suggested putting a membership application in the book to try to boost our numbers. There was no objection to this. She also reported that she is planning to continue the tours into September and the first two weeks of October, but at 4:00 instead of 7:00 as the days get shorter. Peg S. is planning a couple of special Halloween Tours the end of the month which the board approved.
  - b. Downtown Tours - There have been two tours with a total of 3 participants on Saturday morning. Unfortunately, the weather has been an issue on both of the Saturdays. A discussion ensued about the fact that much of the Downtown Tour has been put on the web site without board discussion. Some felt that it would be prudent to put

only a sample of the information to be presented, in order to attract participants. It was also suggested that putting the entire tour on the web site would permit non-society competitors to use the information to conduct tours themselves. It was agreed that the tour should not be put on the new web site until the board has reviewed this issue and determined an outcome.

- c. Programs – As Program Chair, Peg S. has been lining up speakers for the coming year. September, October, and November have confirmed speakers: Dave Pennington (Interlochen), Rachel Wicksall (Children’s History Programs), and Susan Odom (Cooking in the Past).
  - d. Publications – Ms. Schopieray reported that she has spoken with Amy Reichert Hansen (Revolution Design & Printing) and it will take about \$200.00 to \$300.00 to finally complete the *Traverse City Then and Now* book. Mr. Hains moved and Ms. Jennings seconded that Ms. Schopieray be authorized to spend up to \$300.00 to move this book as close to publication as possible. This passed unanimously.
- 6.) Finance – Mr. Siciliano and Mr. Hains had prepared a Draft Budget for October 1, 2016 – September 30, 2016 (Attachment C). It was reviewed by the board which decided that printing costs should be increased from \$100 to \$200 and that an annual donation of \$100 to the Petertyl fund be included. There were no other concerns or changes requested. Mr. Anderson moved and Peg S. seconded that the adjusted budget be accepted. This passed unanimously.

Public Comment – None

The next board meeting will be on Monday, September 19, 2016 at 6:00 PM at the Carnegie Building Conference Room.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia LeClaire, Recording Secretary