

DODGE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
NOVEMBER 15, 2007 at Wasioja Town Hall

The Dodge County Historical Society's Board of Directors met on November 15, 2007 at the Wasioja Town Hall. The meeting was called to order at 7:12 p.m. by DCHS President Don Smith. The following were present: Don Smith, President; Lynette Dahms, Dale Morris, Melisa Ferris, Marlene Glaus, Barb Gilliland, Earlene King, Director; and members and guests, Thelma Given, Lois Nash, Dick Archer, Mary Ann Bucher, Don and Kathy Zeller, Thomas Kunz of Canisteo Township, and John Kvasnicka.

No petitions were presented to the Board. Barb G. moved to accept the agenda; Lynette D. seconded the motion, which carried.

Secretary's Report: The Minutes of the September 2007 meeting were presented for review by the Board. Ruth Stringer was unavailable to present the minutes in person. The following correction was made: Paragraph 3: the 4H Board did not donate the display cases to the DCHS, we bought them for \$200. Lynette D. moved to approve the minutes subject to this correction; Barb G. seconded the motion; the motion carried. It was noted that there was no meeting in October. Illness and other reasons prevented a quorum.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report was presented. Gene was out of town and unable to present the report in person. We received a \$1,000 check on November 15 from Minnesota Counties Trust, which was a refund on insurance premiums. We also received a check for \$4,000 from the Stephen Leuthold Foundation in response to a grant proposal submitted by Don Smith earlier this year. \$700 of the grant money is to be used at the Museum, and the remainder of the funds are not designated for a specific use. A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Dale M. and seconded by Marlene G.; the motion carried.

Monthly Reports: Earlene K. presented the written Monthly Report for September and October. \$1,273.55 was received in September in the form of admissions to the Museum, sales, donations, memorials and memberships. Some of this money was specifically donated to help pay for restoration to General Egerton's portrait. In October, we had income of \$420.85.

Thirty students from K-M's Minnesota History class came to the Museum to prepare a Power Point presentation about Dodge County's Ghost Towns.

Earlene also submitted a chart showing volunteer hours to date for 2007.

Earlene also submitted a written Director's Report. She noted that the wooden sign for the Museum that is visible from Hwy 57 is in bad shape and the numbers are falling off of it. Discussion was had of whether to repair the sign or replace it with one like the sign at the Log Cabin. Consensus was to have the sign repaired. Earlene was asked to call Able Sign and have them look at the sign.

We plan to move the Museum library facilities to the sacristy area of the building, including the microfilm reader, film, reference books, etc. This would provide a quieter and more private

space for researchers. In order to do this, we need to move two pianos and an organ to Wasioja. We can move them ourselves, or we have a quote of \$250 to have them moved for us. Earlene noted that a wheeled cart to hold and move the family history books would be helpful. She also noted that some of the outlets in the Museum do not work, and we need at least two additional outlets in the sacristy for the research equipment. Dale M. agreed to help Earlene K. determine whether the outlets function properly or whether there is a problem with the breaker box. Discussion was had regarding the location of the breaker box. Duane Hythecker is willing to donate the labor to install the outlets if we purchase the electrical equipment, but he has not been able to give us a cost estimate on the project at this time. Duane H. is a licensed electrician, and Don S. asked Earlene to have him determine whether our breaker box is in compliance with local building code.

Discussion had of moving some of our donated musical items and other items to our other properties, and possibly moving a piano to the Wasioja Church. Lynette D. moved to pay to have the pianos and organ moved. Dale M. seconded the motion, which carried. Discussion was had of how to move the heavy objects to the sacristy. Earlene K. noted that a “man and his truck”-type moving service in Kasson quoted \$150 to help move some of the items. While we have many volunteers who are willing to help with the move, some of us are not able to assist, per se. It was determined that we would move the pianos and organ now and see what else needed to be moved after January 1, 2008. Earlene noted that it would be helpful to have the wheeled carts now to assist in moving the family history books. Discussion was had of a furniture sale at Assisi Heights. Melisa F. moved to allow Earlene K. to spend up to \$275 at Assisi Heights to acquire the book carts. Dale M. seconded the motion, which carried.

The Cannon Copier was moved to the Log Cabin at the Fairgrounds. It is available for use, but one must obtain the key to the cabin and the toner cartridge from the Museum beforehand, and bring both back to the Museum after use. If the cartridge gets too cold, it will not work properly and thus cannot be stored at the cabin. Five DCHS members attended a workshop in October. Mantorville’s Open House was held on October 10, and Mary Ann B. represented the DCHS at the event and showed our Power Point Slide show and distributed brochures.

The suggested date for Spring Cleaning is April 26, 2008, which is the weekend before we return to summer hours. Discussion was had regarding ways to improve the Museum space and still display our artifacts and antiques.

#### Committee Reports:

Wasioja: John K. presented a written report about the Wasioja tour in June, 2007. He was thankful for the opportunity to present the history and community of Wasioja to the rest of the world. While we only expected 200 people, we actually had more than 850 attendees. We had between 80 and 100 volunteers to make the day work. His extensive written committee report notes what went well that day and suggests many ways to make the next Wasioja tour even better. John K. noted that the work that was done to shore up/repair the old limestone kiln probably saved it from extensive damage or outright destruction during the floods in August 2007. He noted that the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the US Civil War will be in 2011, and this will be a good time to present the rich Civil War history of Wasioja and Dodge County. There is grant money available for such presentations. He proposed that we have our next event on June 25 and

26, 2011, and noted that re-enactors from the 1<sup>st</sup> Artillery of New Ulm would be available on the 25<sup>th</sup>, but not the 26<sup>th</sup>. The Second Volunteer Division was comprised of men from Wasioja, Cannon Falls, and Old Concord, but he was not sure whether this regiment would be available. The Dodge Center Post Master is committed to our 2011 event. Lynette D. sought authority to let the committee begin planning the 2011 event. Don S. agreed, and asked that John K. and the committee give details to the Board as they progress in their planning. Barb G. and Lynette D. volunteered to serve on the committee.

Wine Tasting: The silent auction this year earned \$1,182.01 so far, and there are some items still awaiting payment. We earned \$2,235 in pre-event ticket sales and an additional \$300 in ticket sales at the door. We spent \$730 on hors d'oeuvres, \$67.87 on décor, and \$75 on posters. There were still some outstanding bills for advertising as of the meeting. Last year we had 173 people in attendance, and this year we had 146. Dale M. sold the most tickets in advance. Discussion was had regarding complaints of running out of food at the event.

Rendezvous: A written final financial report was submitted.

#### Old Business:

Community Events: Several DCHS members attended the community-wide volunteer meeting, which we hosted at Mantorville City Hall. Barb G. provided food. The Mantorville Chamber proposed having a two-day Old Tyme Days and asked whether the DCHS would participate. Don S. indicated that we might be interested if the Chamber lined up transportation to get people up the hill to the Museum from the park and other down-hill locations.

Kasson Water Tower: Barb Pike mentioned that, while she was Mayor of Kasson, Wava Larsen was in charge of the Save the Water Tower Committee. Barb P. asked about the status of the maintenance and remaining funds raised for the Water Tower. She noted that there are lights out in the tower, that the floor needs to be fixed with something other than gravel, and wondered how the tower could be turned into a museum. David Eide was the last DCHS Board member who acted as a liaison with the Water Tower committee. Melisa F. volunteered to assist with the committee if further information was provided.

Old Stone Bridge near Canisteo Township: Tom Kunz presented information regarding the bridge and photos. The bridge is one mile east and one mile south of Canisteo Town Hall. Built in 1910, the bridge is considered architecturally rare because it features pony truss construction. The bridge was evaluated by an engineer and determined to be “fracture critical,” meaning if one part of the structure fails, the whole bridge would collapse. The bridge’s weight bearing capacity rating was reduced from 26 tons to four tons, which means that farm equipment, school buses and graders cannot cross the bridge. Most people who live in the area want the bridge preserved, which might be done in having the road designated a “heritage parkway” through MNDOT. Discussion was had of the pros and cons of such a designation. Another option is to close the bridge to drivers and make it pedestrian only, but this is not really an option for people who live on that road.

#### New Business:

--A draft 2008 budget was presented for review and comment at the January meeting.

--The furnace fan at the Museum is making odd noises and should be checked. Comet H&A was recommended due to their recent work at the Opera House and the Hubbell House and they are local to Mantorville.

--Of the money donated for the Fair Book, we have \$4,000 remaining. Marlene G. proposed using the money to buy and install towns marking all 22 of Dodge County's ghost towns (i.e., towns that had a post office at one time but don't any longer), as they have done in Goodhue and other counties. Mary Ann B. already submitted a grant application for money to do this, and has obtained estimates for the cost associated with obtaining the signs and obtained approval from the town councils to erect the signs. Dale M. said that Mary Ann B. should have obtained Board approval before submitting the grant application. The grant application was due on a very short deadline, and thus Mary Ann was unable to bring the grant application before the Board for approval prior to submission. Don S. approved the submission of the grant without full Board approval due to the short deadline. Earlene K asked Dale M for information about Avon Township. He said it was East Claremont, then Avon. Dale M. would also like to erect street signs showing what the ghost town street names originally were. Another suggested use of the remaining \$4,000 in Fair Book money was to put heat in the Log Cabin. It was also noted that Clarence Smith would like to have his Bicentennial Stage Coach plaque hung up in the Log Cabin.

General Discussion:

--The November meeting was the last one for 2007. Discussion was had regarding where and when to hold the next meeting. It was agreed to have the next meeting on January 17 at Wasioja at 7 p.m., and then have the February meeting at the Hubbell House at noon.

--Discussion was had of trying to get Clarence Smith's Bicentennial Wagon moved from Olmstead County Historical to Dodge County Historical.

Melisa F moved to adjourn the meeting, and Dale M seconded; the motion carried and the meeting was ADJOURNED at 9:25 p.m.

(Note: in the absence of Ruth S. the minutes were prepared by Melisa Ferris.)