

Historical Society of Phillipston, Inc.

Thelma McMahon, President
Peter Richard, Vice President
Gerard Gariepy, Treasurer
Linda Langevin, Clerk

Board of Directors Meeting

Date: April 20, 2011

Location: Phillips Free Public Library

Time: 7:05 PM

Present: Linda Langevin, Gerry Gariepy, Dave Bramhall, Sally Kastberg, Jane French

Absent: Thelma McMahon, Peter Richard, Les Dossett, Arnold Haley, Karl Hakkarainen

Tonight's meeting was chaired by Clerk Linda Langevin in the absence of President Thelma McMahon. Linda explained the reason for Thelma's unexpected absence and expressed Thelma's apology for not being able to attend.

1. The meeting was opened with the recitation of the pledge of allegiance followed by the reading of the previous meeting's minutes by Clerk Linda Langevin. The previous Board meeting was held on October 6, 2010. The minutes were accepted as read.

2. Treasurer Gerry Gariepy stated the Society has a balance of \$23,444 and that he will present a full report at next week's general meeting on April 27th. He also stated that this year's Queen Lake Ice Out Contest took in about \$7000 income.

3. Discussion ensued about the fact that the Society's money is in a non-interest bearing checking account. Linda Langevin stated that the Board had previously voted to have a large portion of this money deposited into an interest bearing account, but that it had not yet been done. Gerry Gariepy explained that banks are offering so little interest (i.e. ~ 1%) that it was hardly worth doing. He said by next week's meeting he will have researched available interest rates and present this information to the general membership on April 27th. We will then need to decide what type of account to put it in, and what amount should be put in.

4. Linda Langevin explained to the Board that while the Ice Out Contest was very successful, it was stressful on the few people who conducted it. For next year's contest, an active committee must be formed early and meet much sooner (in late fall) in order to organize more help and spread the work amongst more than 3 people.

5. Linda Langevin informed the Board of the poor attendance at winter historical society programs within the past several years. Generally, there is 8 or less people attending, and one meeting had only 2 society members in attendance. Linda

suggested the programs in January, February, and March be discontinued because it is discouraging for a speaker not to have an audience. A motion was made by Gerry Gariepy, seconded by Dave Bramhall, to discontinue providing Historical Society programs during the months of January, February and March. This motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

6. Linda Langevin opened discussion about the Society's upcoming annual meeting on May 18th where election of officers and committee members will take place. She also informed the Board that our president, Thelma McMahan and her husband Phil will soon be moving out of state. There are several other positions that will also need to be filled. Therefore, it is vital that we have a fully active nominating committee. Currently, Gerry Gariepy is the only active person on that committee. Linda Langevin recommended that Mel Haughton be added to that committee. A motion was made by Gerry Gariepy, seconded by Dave Bramhall, to appoint Mel Haughton to the nominating committee and to find other individuals who are also willing to serve. This motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

7. Linda Langevin informed the Board that Kay Deans is considering resigning from the publicity committee but that she suggested she might be open to forming a membership drive committee and then conducting a membership drive in order to recruit new members and elicit more member participation in accomplishing the Society's mission. The Board offered its full support for this idea and hopes that Kay will take on this task. One idea previously suggested to encourage new members to join was to give each new member one history book of Phillipston (i.e. "*The Spirit of Phillipston*") for free. The Board discussed the pros and cons of this suggestion but did not reach a consensus. The Board will wait to hear from Kay Deans as to whether or not she will take on this task. If she does, then the Board will make a decision as to whether a book should be given for free or simply offered at a significant discount.

8. Linda Langevin informed the Board that Phillipston's Community Preservation Committee (CPC) has denied the Society's application for a grant to help begin the process of creating an addition to the museum. Despite having submitted a very complete, appropriate application, on time, the Society was denied for an unjust reason, i.e. the Society had not yet signed an agreement for use of the previously granted funds. Although always ready and willing to sign such a document, the Society was never *given* the document which to sign. And, the CPC stated it did not even possess the document. After hearing this dilemma, Director Dave Bramhall stated he will contact the CPC and, if necessary the State individual who manages the CPA program.

9. Linda Langevin informed the Board of the excellent job Karl Hakkarainen has done in redesigning our web site: www.HistoricalSocietyofPhillipston.org Karl has suggested that the web site include the minutes of our meetings. The Board supported this idea and a motion was made by Jane French, seconded by Gerry Gariepy, that the meeting's minutes be posted on our website and that they be given a title such as "provisional minutes pending member approval". This motion was carried unanimously.

10. Upcoming meeting dates were reviewed. They include:

a. our regular monthly meeting which will be held next Wednesday, April 27th at 7:00 PM in the Congregational Church vestry. Gerry Gariepy will be presenting a slide program entitled: "Phillipston Then and Now".

b. our annual meeting and pot luck dinner which will be held on Wednesday, May 18th in the church vestry. The meal will start at 6:30 PM and be followed by the annual meeting and election of officers at about 7:00 PM.

Linda then discussed how sad it will be to lose Thelma McMahon from our Society and suggested that, at the annual meeting, we publicly recognize her for the immense amount of work she has done for the Society over the past 5 years. Perhaps each Board member can say a few words explaining what a vital leader she has been and to express words of appreciation for her tireless work. Some object of remembrance and/or flowers can also be given. The Board was in full agreement on this idea.

11. Curator Jane French then informed the Board of her plans to open the museum by June 1st so that it can be available to school students before their year ends. She is also preparing a large collage of photos of Phillipston residents. Jane also mentioned that she will need volunteers to help her set up the museum in preparation for its opening.

12. A motion was made by Dave Bramhall, seconded by Jane French, to adjourn the meeting. This motion was carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Langevin, Clerk
Historical Society of Phillipston, Inc.