

MINUTES

WELLESLEY TOWNSHIP HERITAGE and HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING

Monday, January 18, 2021 2:00 p.m.

Present by Zoom: Nancy Maitland, Karolyn Fournier, Diane & Garry Peters, Andrew Jacobson, Blanche Moser.

1. Call to order – Nancy called the meeting to order at 2:03 pm.
2. Delegations – none.
3. Minutes of the last meeting – December 14, 2020. Andrew Jacobson moved to accept the minutes, Garry Peters seconded, carried.
4. Communications - None to report.
5. New Business
 - Nancy requested permission to purchase archival display supplies. She has been using supplies from Dollarama where appropriate for the historical room displays and events. These have proved to be inadequate. She's working on the Crosshill collection and plans to design a new display about Crosshill to replace the Charles Ottman photo display. She hasn't firm pricing yet, but does not expect to need to spend more than \$200. The purchase and amount requested sounds reasonable. Diane Peters moved that Nancy should purchase display supplies, to the maximum of \$200, Karolyn Fournier seconded, carried.
6. Old Business
 - **Nominations and AGM** – Nancy thanked Andrew for bringing nominations to the past meeting. Peter has agreed to let his name stand for vice chair. Karolyn has agreed to let her name stand as chair. The position of secretary is open. Several other members were asked to serve, but have non-flexible work schedules and are unable to commit to the role. Until a secretary is found, it was suggested we take turns taking the minutes.
 - **Wilmot Post Heritage Edition** Nancy has written and submitted two articles to Lisa Hagen. The "Community Builders" stories from our township are on the Brown Family (early black settlers) and John George Reiner, known as the "Builder of Wellesley." The edition is expected to be published in February.
 - Nancy was asked if she had heard about the recent publication of in-depth stories of Heidelberg history by Rosanne Atwater-Hallatt. There are three stories to be included in upcoming Waterloo Historical Society annual reports, starting with the 2020 book. Nancy is on the WHS board with Rosanne and is familiar with this project. Diane suggested we invite Rosanne to be a part of WTHHS.
 - **Heritage Day:** There has been no communications regarding Wilmot Heritage Day, it is assumed, due to the pandemic, the annual event has been cancelled this year.

- **Historical Outreach Project** – Nancy will forward photos of some sample plaque styles Peter has in mind for use for our historical event marker project. Nancy is hoping Peter will provide more information on who produced the examples and how much they cost. Once we know this, we can schedule this project and include in a future budget.
- **St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Cemetery** on Hessen-Strauss Road: Nancy elaborated on the cemetery tombstone topic from last month. There is a modern tombstone erected at St. John’s cemetery with many names on it. This is not a mass grave, but a memorial to those buried there without an identifying stone remaining. This project was completed by the St. John’s church board. A cemetery plan in the WLU archives was used to match those names with those on existing stones. Any name without a stone is on this new marker.

7. Chair/Curator’s Report

- Nancy is preparing a display with the recently acquired Crosshill artifacts.
- Hilda Koch donated items from her grandfather’s mill business, including over 500 cancelled cheques. Nancy will digitize these into our collection.
- Quarterly newsletter was published.
- Martin Starr would like to add his family research to the Wellesley Roots page on our website. Nancy will reformat the current Wellesley Roots page as a landing page and have a link for each family history versus having all families on one page.
- Rosanne Atwater-Hallatt has two photos of the school in Heidelberg she will be donating.
- Since the Historical room may not be open for several months. Nancy would like to try to do some work on a virtual display to be published online.
- Lisa Hagen, editor of *Wilmot Post* is looking for updates from groups to include in the “Community Connects” section of the newspaper, since there are no events to publish. Nancy will submit information about our digital collection.
- Web stats for 2020 – Monthly averages for 2020 at the end of December - 290 users, 364 sessions 1228 page views. Nancy is very pleased with the numbers.

8. Financial Reports

Historical society	1,736.33
Heritage committee	1,956.58
Heritage committee GIC	6,860.00
Koehler	355,136.62
Petty cash	162.23
Total	365,851.76

9. Other Business

- Theresa Bisch will be retiring this year as treasurer of Wellesley Township. The position has been posted for the role.

10. Next Meeting: **February 15, 2021 at 2:00pm – Annual General Meeting** followed by our regular monthly meeting.

Andrew moved to adjourn at 2:31 pm. Minutes recorded by Karolyn Fournier