

Claverack Historical Society (CHS)

Minutes

April 2, 2024

Those in attendance; Nick Zasorin, Charles Schram, Bob LaPorta, Paula Ptaszek, Mary Luftand and Gary Davis (on Zoom). Absent: Jeane LaPorta, Secretary

The meeting was called to order by Gary at 11:00 AM.

Agenda item 1 Slate of officers,

Paula Ptaszek reported that Kara Keeler past vice president was interested in continued involvement. Interim President Zasorin will contact Kara and report back at the next meeting. The decision to vote for the slate of officers nominated at the previous meeting was postponed until the next meeting.

Agenda Item 2 CHS progress report,

Charlie Schram reported that Nate Schram renewed the CHS web site with Go Daddy until 3/2027 and the three domain addresses (.com, .org and .net) until 1/2026. The cost for this service was donated by Nate.

Treasurer Paula Ptaszek reported that Go Daddy deducted \$70.32 from the CHS checking account for their service.

Charlie reported that Nate paid \$207.00, and he would contact Go Daddy to ensure that there was not a double payment.

Treasurer Paula reported that the balance in the checkbook was \$1013.54. This included a generous donation of \$1000.00 from Nick.

Paula also reported that there are approximately 38 past members. A discussion regarding dues and life membership was had. Paula will examine the excel sheet and report back at our next meeting.

Agenda Item 3 and 4 email to past members,

Bob agreed to generate a draft letter to members of record in the CHS introducing the new slate of offers, direction of the organization and membership renewal and dues reminder. The draft will be emailed to the officers before the next meeting.

Agenda Item 5 Churchtown Firehouse,

Nick and Gary both attempted to speak with Bob Preusser since the last meeting, regarding the Churchtown firehouse closure. The Churchtown Fire Co. has been decommissioned. Funding from the AB Shaw Fire Co. will cease on June 30,2024.

Disposal of Churchtown's fire equipment will follow protocol. Gary felt the CHS has no role in this issue. Gary and Nick will reach out again to Bob Preusser next week to continue the conversation about the firehouse building.

Nick felt that some issues with the closure of the Churchtown Fire Co. were sensitive and should be discussed in executive session.

Agenda Item 6 Certifications and 501c3,

Bob reported on the New State Provisional Certification issued to the CHS in March 2017. This certification expired in 2022, at the height of the Covid pandemic. After some discussion a motion was made by Nick, seconded by Charlie to reapply for an extension of the provisional certification. Bob agreed to contact the state agency and start the recertification process.

Bob also reported on the 501(c)3 proposal and informed the group that the provisional certification was needed before applying for this tax exempt certificate. This process can be completed online using form 1023 and will be submitted once the provisional certificate has been secured.

Mary described her experience with her 501(c)3 while in Miami. Mary agreed to work with Bob in securing this tax exempt certification.

Agenda Item 7 Shaw Bridge,

Gary reported that while in Indiana he saw a bridge that had been moved to a public park. Gary suggested looking into relocating the Shaw Bridge possibly to the Chatham Fairgrounds as a way of preserving it.

Bob felt that the historic value of the bridge lies in the fact that it is the only double span Whipple bridge, and it is in its original location. Bob stated that moving the bridge would cause it to lose some of its historic significance.

Nick informed the group that Shaw Bridge was jointly owned by the town and county.

Structural integrity of the bridge was discussed, and it was felt that a review of the bridge was needed. Repairing the bridge sufficient to allow pedestrians to use it is the priority of this group until otherwise informed.

Jeane's report was read by Bob LaPorta. Jeane contacted Louis LaMont Claverack Highway Superintendent to ask if the department can still clean the bridge of trees and debris and if the Pomeroy Historic Marker can be reinstalled near it. Jeane provided information on obtaining a 501c3 and an application. The effect of the historic society on economic development in towns was preliminarily reviewed.

Gary reported that some of the neighbors were not in favor of repairing the bridge while others embraced the repair project.

Paula and Mary felt that we should support and highlight the importance of Shaw Bridge as well as other historical landmarks.

Agenda Item 8 Economic development,

Charlie informed the committee that John Lee was the only one on the economic development committee and was invited to this meeting.

Bob explained how economic development benefits from having historical societies that promote the town's significance and resources.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is May 7, 2024, at the Claverack Library History Room, 11AM -1PM.

A motion to adjourn was made by Bob at 12:10PM. J

Jeane LaPorta

4/4/2024