

HAHS Minutes

January 27, 2025

Attendees: Carol Desch, Mary Kirstein, Kelly Knobloch, Wendy Skarstad, Bob Voss, Betty Plante, Janet Boyer, Myrna Masching, Monica Ruder, Judy Witheft

Call to Order: Mary Kirstein, President called the meeting to order at 5:34

Secretary Minutes: Kelly Knobloch made a motion to accept the minutes and Myrna Mashing Seconded Motion passed

In the absence of the Co Secretaries Judy Witheft will be taking minutes.

Treasures Report – Myrna presented the report.

Starting checking Balance 12/1/2024 \$8,753.50 Ending Balance as of 1/26/2025 \$12,126.32

Savings balance \$25,344.74 CD Balance \$10,000.00

Questions on Insurance amounts listed. Adjustments were made because of roofing project. Wendy will make current policy information available to the Board next meeting. Discussed the terms of the CD (\$10,000)– was determined \$10,000. CD was purchased from SBH on March 5, 2024 for 12 months. Unsure of the rate and interest terms. Information should be presented at the February meeting comparing rates & terms at local financial institutions. Determination to reinvest will be discussed and Notification to SBH will be made for the March 5, 2025 due date. Treasure report filed for Audit.

Museum & Display- list of ideas presented in the Agenda were discussed. Determined end of February Main Street Display should be updated. At this time suggested theme – Tool for Farm & Home combining with Early area Farmsteads. Possibly requests on Facebook for items to display for loan. Importance of completing the loan form and possible to take a picture of the item to be associated with the loan form.

Events & Programs – Mary complemented the Saturday program by Tom Desch “ Everglades of the North”. Approximately 30 people attended the presentation and many toured Anderson House after the presentation. Determined that Saturdays, at 1:00, seem to be a good time for future programs. Kelly mentioned that on Wednesday night, January 29th, the HHS Basketball game will feature a throwback to Reddick. HAHS will have a display table of articles we have at HAHS from Reddick and also make available membership forms and other HAHS forms. Any member is encouraged to help sit at the table anytime from 5:30-8:30. Kelly presented the Program listing that was emailed to the Board which was created by Debbie Witheft. Each month had a possible program that could be presented except for July and it was suggested that possibly we could do a Military program and tie a new Main Street display with this theme in July which would be informative for Labor Day . A motion was made by Wendy Skarstad to approve the proposed programs for 2025, seconded by Betty Plante. Motion carried.

Finance & Fundraising – Kelly reviewed the Recommended 2025 Budget that was emailed to the Board. She noted that the budget did not include grants/projects. Open for questions. This proposed budget, unless questions, will be presented for approval at the February meeting.

Membership & Promotion: Judy gave a paid member report as of 1/25/25 – 26 Regular membership, 1 new lifetime membership, 2 business memberships. (2024 total membership total was approximately 115). Judy discussed the possibility of a membership drive in late February to make more people aware of details that HAHS offers. Discussion followed that a “Friend of HAHS” should be created with pricing equal to current annual membership - this would possibly making people feel less obligations to the organizations however a donation to assist the Society to continue in Herscher. A form will be created and emailed to all Board members for review. Hope is to send out to list of individuals and businesses in late February. Names of people to submit the “Friend of HAHS” form should be emailed to Judy.

Acquisitions – A picture of a sleigh was shown of a donation made by a family from Braidwood area. Judy has made arrangements for the sleigh to be temporarily stored until we can further find an area in the Annex or another building that can hold this and possibly other HAHS donation. A thank you will be sent to the family.

Buildings & Grounds – Bob reported that a window in the lower area of Anderson house needs to be replaced/repaired ASAP. A discussion on the recent estimate given to Bob for heating/air conditioning of the lower level of Anderson. Discussion was that if we want to do programs throughout the year we will need to have heat and air for the downstairs area. Project with more details should be presented at February meeting so costs and funding can be determined.

New Business –

Mary discussed the proposed By Law updates that have been emailed to Board. Short discussion on changes and updates took place. With suggestions noted another update will be emailed out to Board and should be reviewed immediately so that updated by Laws can be presented and voted on at the February meeting. Mary noted the Committee listing and encouraged everyone to followup on their assigned committee and to encourage other members to assist with projects.

Friday, Jan. 31 Main Street 9-11 will be covered by Carol Desch and Janet Boyer. Sunday, Feb 2 at Anderson will be covered by Myrna Masching and Maretta Tolmer. Mary has made a form available for Anderson of the areas to control lighting. Form can be found at front table at Anderson.

Carol Desch discussed proposal and possible donation that was presented to her A possible \$1,000. Donation, which would be made to HAHS, if we would do more than one interview in our newsletters. Person feels Newsletter readers enjoys reading about the Herscher people and their historical information should be presented in a more timely manner. Carol and Janet will work on a list and get items submitted for the next newsletter as soon as possible and Carol will inform Carol Webber our intensions to comply with her requests.

Kelly Knobloch made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Myrna Mashing. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:55.

Next Meeting will be February 23, 2025 at 5:30.

Acting Secretary Judy Witheft for Cindy and Debbie Witheft