

ST. MICHAEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES: November 12, 2018

Calvin Schoen, president, called the board meeting of the St. Michael Historical Society to order at 7:00 PM in the St. Michael Central Fire Station Meeting Room. Other directors present were Lyle Barthel, Sheldon Barthel, Dan Lenz, Brendan Sage, Stephen Barthel, Harvey Zahler, Bob Zahler, Harry Welter, and Crystal Sayen. The minutes from the October 8, 2018 meeting were read and approved without amendments.

President's Report – Calvin received an email from Elizabeth Riecken from Ancestry.com about the updating of our website. Gordy Dehmer donated a Centennial pin to add to the society's collection.

Treasurer's Report – Lisa was not present to report.

Media Specialist – Crystal reported that our online shopping cart, Virtuemart, is extremely outdated and might fail at the next automated update. If this were to happen we would need to restore the website back to its last saved state. Another option would be to switch to a new system called Hikashop. This would be a small fee to license use, but it would take programming work on the back end of the website beyond Crystal's scope, therefore, requiring help from Joe Kaul at a fee. Sheldon made a motion to try to update Virtuemart and if it does fail, remove the store from the website. Harry seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Membership – Sheldon reported that membership is at 111 members.

Curator – Corrine Hamisch contacted Bob to donate items from the Gertrude Schendel estate. The items included a 1921 calendar from the St. Michael State Bank and 1910 postcard addressed to Alois Goeb (image containing a hand colored view of St. Michael looking down mainstreet with a German inscription. Bob also reported that he acquired the 1970s Band uniform from the high school and it is has been dry cleaned and ready for storage. Harry brought in 3 religious books written in German from 1858, 1884, and the early 1800s. Bob also reported that the 1948 wedding dance tickets that were donated to the society were from the Norm & Alice Steffens Wedding.

Newsletter – Bob is working on an article of the St. Michael/Canada connection during migration. He is also working on filler articles for the next newsletter.

Website – Steve reported that he entered a few more lines into the website and is at 4,294 and will be continuing to add more biographical files.

Old Business – Bob was working on grant paperwork and noticed the due date was rapidly approaching. He was able to submit it by the deadline and hope to hear back soon. Joe Psyk is interested in coming in to speak about his book, Midnight, my pet crow and friend. Kyle Elkie attended the Bloms estate sale and was able to obtain an old safe that was used at a bank in St. Michael inside the vault in 1904 or 1905. Kyle is also working on a project with old barn wood and looking for more information on the Hubert Barthel farm likely from the early 1900s. Lyle brought in a certificate from Mt. Vernon that authenticated he laid a wreath on George & Martha Washington's gravesite.

New Business – There is no meeting in December.

Announcements – The next meeting will take place January 14th at 7:00 PM in the meeting room at the Library Conference Room.

Adjournment – Motion to adjourn was made by Bob, seconded by Harry. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Crystal Sayen, Secretary