

Greater Dover Historical Society

March 27, 2008

The regular meeting of the Greater Dover Historical Society was called to order by President Madelyn Shermeyer at 7:00 p.m. at the Calvary Lutheran Church. Members present were: Lori Koch, Joyce Law, Carol Leathery, Harry Shermeyer, June Kinsey, Jeff Koch, Jay Stouch, Jo Ott, Ron Botterbusch, Norma Botterbusch, Madelyn Shermeyer, Mary Geiselman, James Geiselman, William Zech, Lucia Hrinyak, Sharon Kemper, Kay Stitley, Ted Ziegler, Larry Law, Melanie Green, Grace Trimmer, Randy Worley, Judy Worley and Gayle Heagy.

The program proceeded with the swearing in of Board of Director member, Ron Botterbusch, who was absent from the February 21 meeting due to illness. President Shermeyer introduced Mr. Botterbusch as our guest speaker to present a program on the civil defense during World War II. The text of the presentation is attached to the minutes as Addendum A.

President Shermeyer presented the February minutes and asked for any additions or corrections to the minutes. There were several corrections made (on pages 1, 2, 3, 4) and a motion to accept the minutes as presented as corrected was made by Ron Botterbusch and seconded by Larry Law. All voted in favor and motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Joyce thanked all the members for the excellent response on turning in the volunteer hour sheets. The total hours were less than 2006 but we were not building the blacksmith shop which resulted in more volunteer hours. For 2007, the total volunteer hours were 3,984 compared to 4,271 for 2006.

The treasurer's report for February 2008 was presented by Joyce Law:

Balance as of February 1, 2008	\$9,884.18
Deposits for February	433.74
Expenses for February	189.03
Balance as of February 29, 2008	\$10,179.23

Joyce asked if anyone recalls when West Manchester Historical Society agreed to pay one half the cost of the website. Joyce cannot find records in our minutes and neither can West Manchester in their minutes. West Manchester has submitted their check for \$59.94 in response to the invoice Joyce mailed in December. Payment is due for our

website in June or July so Joyce will send invoices to West Manchester Historical Society at the beginning of each year. There was a motion by Harry Shermeyer to approve the Treasurer's reports as presented and seconded by June Kinsey. All voted in favor and motion passed.

Joyce reported she received a letter in response to her submission of the IRS 8734 form stating we will be notified in 190 days if the society qualifies as a publicly funded organization.

Archivist Report -- Dr. Drawbaugh was absent. Gayle Heagy reported she has not received any new items, but Joyce Law gave her more of the transcribed Stouch diaries. Jay Stouch has given Joyce all the remaining diaries. Gayle has a document for Jay Stouch to sign tonight; President Shermeyer and Lori Koch will attest after the meeting concludes.

Webpage Report – Brett Pfeleger was not present at the meeting. President Shermeyer reported she emailed Brett that she has all the blacksmith shop items in order and ready to give to him to post on the website. There are a lot of photos of the open house and dedication, but not all will be posted to the website. President Shermeyer stated she has permission from June Kinsey to use her open house newsletter article on the website. We will also use the information from the dedication booklet.

Historian Report – Cindy Snyder was not present at the meeting.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Blood Root -- President Shermeyer reported she has been going through the first book and made some notes. She reported that once Mr. Botterbusch is feeling better, they will get together to review the books. We must use the same pictures that were in the original book.

Adopt-a-Highway – Lucia Hrinyak reported the March 8 pickup date was rained out and the next date will be Saturday, April 5 at 8 a.m. at GDS Controls (rain date will be April 12). Lucia encouraged members to sign up since April is an obligatory month.

Landscape Committee – Lucia reported the committee met last fall to make plans for this year, including maintenance of the chestnut tree. Lucia stated it is the responsibility of the GDHS to water the tree on a weekly schedule from May through the end of October, as per the recommendation by Gayle Heagy. The nursery gave Gayle a guarantee to replace the tree if it died over the winter and does not bloom in the spring. The committee felt the responsibility of watering the tree could be shared by members of the society, and Lucia will have a sign-up sheet available in April. Joyce suggested that Larry and Ted could water the tree on the Saturdays they are there for the open hours of the blacksmith shop.

## Board of Directors' report

Gayle Heagy reported on an email communication from President Shermeyer regarding a poster for campers at Pinchot Park. Gayle stated that Jo Ott had spoken to park employees in the office at Pinchot Park and they suggested the GDHS prepare a flyer or poster about GDHS activities which they could post at the park to notify campers or visitors who are looking for things to do in our area. Gayle sent an email to all Board of Director members concerning this matter seeking their opinion on this issue. The Board felt the full membership should vote on the suggestion. Jo Ott stated she spoke to the park officials at the dedication last year and they felt campers may be interested in GDHS activities, particularly the blacksmith shop open hours. Jo prepared a flyer to be distributed. President Shermeyer asked for a consensus from the membership and all in attendance voted in favor of posting the flyer. Norma Botterbusch suggested posting a flyer at Outdoor World; other suggestions were to post at the local banks, local churches and advertise in the weekly newspaper. Jo Ott stated she has been in contact with Joan Concilio at the YDR and she will send her a copy also.

Gayle Heagy reported on a Historic York Preservation Award which is presented annually to recognize rehabilitation projects for careful attention to preserving history. Individuals, families, businesses and nonprofits can be nominated. The awards are given for careful and accurate rehabilitation that preserves historic appearance. They can be given for exterior or interior preservation or preservation initiative for a challenging project. Awards are given to the building owner, except preservation initiative awards, which are given to the individual or group responsible. Projects must have been completed in 2007. The awards will be given out May 17 at the organization's 32nd Annual Meeting and Reception.

Gayle asked the membership for a vote to submit the blacksmith shop for this award. All members voted in favor to have Gayle complete the application and send it in before the deadline.

## OLD BUSINESS

Adopt-a-Highway – Lucia Hrinyak reported our two-year contract with PennDOT expires on May 17, 2008, unless we as an organization choose to renew the contract. Lucia indicated she will not be chair again and will allow another member to fill that position. Unfortunately, we will only complete 7 pickups by the time the contract expires due to the March date being cancelled. The society needs to decide if this is a project it wishes to continue. Lucia reminded members that we are a volunteer organization and not all members can participate in every project. Lucia feels the adopt-a-highway project has run very successfully over the past 2 years with approximately 10 percent of the membership participating frequently. Lucia believes we can continue this project as long as members participate to the best of their ability. Lucia stated that chairing the committee is very simple and straightforward. She has a lot of supplies that can be used

for the April pickup and any dates to follow. As chairperson, you pick the date of the pickup, contact the liaison at PennDOT on the Susquehanna Trail to request supplies (trash bags, gloves, orange safety vests) and notify her of the scheduled date via email. After the pickup is complete, the chairperson would contact the PennDOT liaison to notify her of the number of bags, number of participants and where the trash bags can be picked up. Lucia asked if any member had questions or would like to volunteer to be chairperson. The next date for pickup after April will be a decision made by the new chairperson. April and October are the obligatory months and there should be 4 pickups per year to fulfill the contract. Melanie Green volunteered to be the chairperson. President Shermeyer thanked Melanie. Jeff Koch asked if there was a specific time of day that supplies needed to be picked up at the PennDOT office. Lucia stated she did not address that issue as it was not a problem for her. Melanie said she works at Rutters on Lightner Road and can pick up supplies when necessary. Lucia will contact the PennDOT liaison to find out if there is paperwork to be signed for the new 2-year contract and notify her that Melanie will be the new chairperson. It was decided that the society will continue the program since we have a new chairperson. All members agreed. There was a round of applause for the fine job Lucia did as chair of the committee for the past 2 years.

Dover Firemen's Fair – President Shermeyer stated we need a chairperson for the fair committee. Last year there were 3 co-chairs (Kay Stitley, Lois Slothower, Carol Leathery). We have tables and will be able to use the metal backdrop provided by Kay. President Shermeyer asked if there are 2 volunteers willing to chair the committee. There were none. President Shermeyer asked Norma if she had a list of items we use for display and set-up procedures. Norma did not have anything in writing. Norma stated the table set-up was usually done on Thursday night and the display items were taken in the night before the opening day of the fair. Jeff Koch asked what time they opened up the basement and Kay Stitley said you need to be there between 4:30pm and 5:00pm. One person must be there to open and/or close, especially to take home the cash box. Kay stated that Lori and Jeff Koch came up almost every night to help close up and it was a big help. President Shermeyer said we need a firm decision by April. Kay Stitley mentioned it seemed we had fewer visitors and questions this past year than in previous years. Norma said this past year seemed very different and Kay said the crowd did not seem as interested as in past years. Jeff Koch said the weather last year was nice and he felt people spent their time outdoors instead of inside looking at displays. The dates for the fair this year are August 30 and September 1-6. President Shermeyer stated she is willing to help at the display, but cannot chair the committee. Norma and Joyce stated they felt some of the nights we had too many volunteers at the stand; 2 or 3 volunteers for each night would be sufficient. June Kinsey asked if it was profitable for the society to have a display at the fair. President Shermeyer stated we did sell some replicas and signed up a couple new members. Harry Shermeyer stated he felt the society should continue to have a display at the fair to gain exposure for the society and promote the preservation of Dover history.

Kay Stitley mentioned that she and Norma Botterbusch attended the West Manchester Historical Society meeting last Monday night where they were discussing how to increase their membership. WMHS only has 24 paid members. They have a fairly good turnout when they host speakers, but not at their regular meetings. In Dover, we have the Borough as our core centralized area; whereas West Manchester does not which is mostly likely why the GDHS has more active members. Joyce Law said we have roughly 150 or 160 paid members.

President Shermeyer reported the introduction page for membership applications on the GDHS website has been updated and posted accordingly. Individuals can access a link for the membership application from this page. The list of GDHS members has also been updated.

Storage shed security – Harry Shermeyer took care of making corrections to the lock on the overhead garage door of the storage shed. He added pins and washers at the bottom of the door on both sides which must be removed before the door will open. Harry will make adjustments to the lock and latch on the side entry door once Bob Stitley gets the inside bar frame installed. There were some adjustments made to the lock on the side door by Harry and Bob Stitley after Lucia noticed it was open several days ago. There was nothing missing from the shed.

President Shermeyer reported the security light at the blacksmith shop was installed by Marty Green.

Chestnut tree – Lucia Hrinyak presented a sign-up sheet for the watering schedule for the chestnut tree at the blacksmith shop. Lucia reported that since there are only a few members on the landscaping committee, she hopes other members closer to the park would volunteer to water the tree on a weekly schedule. The schedule runs from the week of May 4 through September 28 – 5 gallons per week for a dry week and no watering necessary during a wet week. Members should provide their own watering can or hose. After a brief discussion regarding the schedule, the following was decided:

Weeks of May 4 through July 20 – Madelyn Shermeyer

Weeks of July 27 through September 28 – Lori & Jeff Koch

(every Wednesday)

Gayle Heagy stated the warranty contract from the nursery is a 1-year replacement until June 1. Larry Law reported that someone donated 3 garden hoses if we want to use those for the watering of the chestnut tree. We will have to find a secure location to store the hoses and Joyce Law asked if we could place a storage bin near the water faucet. It was determined it would not be feasible to purchase a storage bin large enough to hold 3 garden hoses and be able to secure it to the ground. Lucia suggested

we see how the volunteer watering schedule works out before deciding to use the hoses and purchase a storage bin. Other storage options were discussed and President Shermeyer stated she would put this on the agenda for the April meeting.

President Shermeyer reported she has the blacksmith shop photographs mounted on the burlap covered board for the open hours in April. The photographs are numbered to correspond with the descriptions listed in the pamphlet. Norma Botterbusch stated she has the storage bin to put all the supplies in that are used for the sale table in the blacksmith shop. All the items will be assembled and placed in the bin for the April open hour's event.

Joyce Law reported she received an email from the GDHS website from Mr. David E. Corbin from Massachusetts regarding Theopolis Gross (1829-1876). Mr. Corbin sent a photograph of Mr. Gross, who was a member of Mrs. Corbin's family. Joyce made a copy of the photograph for the archives and searched the Stouch diaries to print out the transcript about the fire at the shop and his death a month later.

President Shermeyer reported we received correspondence from the Northern York County Historical Preservation Society regarding their 175<sup>th</sup> year history fair and seeking exhibitors for this event. The event is Saturday, May 17 from 8am to 4pm.

President Shermeyer reported that in January she was contacted by Jane Heller from the York County Conservation Alliance. They were contacting historical societies they thought may be interested. This group advocates for conservation of green space, farmland, streams, creeks and rivers, recreational trails and historic sites. President Shermeyer stated contact was made initially through Ron Botterbusch who passed it along to her; she said it did not appear to be something our GDHS mission statement says we should be doing. President Shermeyer copied the email and forwarded it to all Board of Director members; the Board indicated they were not interested in participating and therefore no one from our society attended the first meeting of this group. President Shermeyer was contacted again by Jane Heller by phone indicating that she would like this issue brought up again before the society and President Shermeyer did contact the Board members again. Again, the Board indicated we are not interested. The group advocates for land preservation and that is not the mission of our society.

There being no questions or any suggestions from the membership, the meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m. by President Shermeyer.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Koch

GDHS secretary

