

Greater Dover Historical Society

May 15, 2008

The regular meeting of the Greater Dover Historical Society was called to order by Vice President Kay Stitley at 7:13 p.m. at the Calvary Lutheran Church. Members present were: Lori Koch, June Kinsey, Carol Leathery, Jo Ott, Joyce Law, Larry Law, Grace Trimmer, Kay Stitley, Norma Botterbusch, Ron Botterbusch, Ted Ziegler, Melanie Green, Jeff Koch, Sharon Kemper, Martin Green, Gayle Heagy and Madelyn Shermeyer.

Vice President Stitley stated she was opening the meeting because President Shermeyer and Gayle Heagy were at the Schultz House in East York accepting the Historic York Preservation Award for the Society. Gayle Heagy had submitted the application a few months ago for the blacksmith shop project and it was selected to receive an award.

Vice President Stitley presented the April 2008 minutes and asked for any additions or corrections to the minutes. A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Ron Botterbusch and seconded by Joyce Law. All voted in favor and motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

Balance as of April 1, 2008	\$10,053.84
Deposits for April	.41
Expenses for April	84.59
Balance as of April 30, 2008	\$ 9,969.66

There was a motion by Larry Law to approve the treasurer's report as presented and seconded by Norma Botterbusch. All voted in favor and motion passed.

Archivist Report -- Dr. Drawbaugh was absent. Assistant Archivist Gayle Heagy reported she did not receive any new items. Gayle stated she was in contact with Don Snelbecker regarding storage for the timbers from the shed in his large barn and he would not permit the Society to use his barn to store the timbers. Gayle reported she met Carol Jones tonight at the Historic York ceremony. Carol has a wonderful large barn across from the Race Horse Tavern on Biesecker Road. Gayle mentioned to Carol about the Society seeking a location to store the timbers and Carol thought she may have room available. Gayle stated we will need an emissary to check out the barn.

Webpage Report – Brett Pfeiger was not present at the meeting. No report.

Historian Report – Cindy Snyder was not present at the meeting. No report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Blood Root -- President Shermeyer did not have any updates to report.

Adopt-a-Highway – Melanie Green reported the next pickup date will be June 7 at 8:00am. She encouraged members to sign up to help.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REPORT

Gayle Heagy reported that she and President Shermeyer attended the Historic York Preservation Awards ceremony to accept the award for the Society. It is a glass block with a small plaque on it reading "Historic York Inc., 2007 Preservation Award, Dover Area Historical Society". The ceremony was held at the Schultz House on Locust Grove Road in Stony Brook. Vice President Stitley led the members in a round of applause for Gayle in recognition of her efforts to submit the application on behalf of the Society.

OLD BUSINESS

Dover Firemen's Fair -- Vice President Stitley stated she and the Kochs graciously agreed to co-chair this year. We will need items to put into the display boxes. Ron Botterbusch brought in 3 new display boxes and unfortunately 1 box had the glass broken. Mr. Botterbusch will get the glass replaced. A sign-up sheet for volunteers to work at the stand will be available at the June meeting.

Jailhouse marker – President Shermeyer reported she spoke to Don Baughman who informed her it was installed a week ago. President Shermeyer placed the rough brick around the marker along with some red landscaping stones inside the fence.

July 17 picnic – President Shermeyer stated she verified the Society's reservation of the pavilion at Lehr Park for our picnic. There is another reservation at 11am on the same date, but this group will be cleared out by 3pm. Vice President Stitley stated there is a sign-up sheet for the picnic on the table. Ron Botterbusch reported 2 anonymous donors have paid for the chicken and potatoes and Bob Stitley will supply the hot dogs and rolls. Members are asked to donate salads, desserts and fruits.

Other Old Business: Vice President Stitley reminded the members about the West Manchester Township Historical Society meeting on Monday at 7pm where Mr. Billet will do a presentation on covered bridges.

Ron Botterbusch asked if the 3 new display cases can be stored in the archive storage shed. Gayle said yes.

Vice President Stitley reported the wrought iron security door at the shed was installed at the end of April by Bob Stitley. Vice President Stitley said Gayle Heagy has the key and the shed is very secure now with the new door locks on the side door and large garage door, as well as the security motion light on the blacksmith shop. Gayle Heagy mentioned there are a lot of new flowers blooming at the shed and President Shermeyer agreed the flowers look lovely. Vice President Stitley stated Jo Ott has a friend who owns a day lily farm in New Cumberland. Jo and Lucia will be setting up a date to visit the farm and pick out several plants which will be donated to the Society by Jo's friend.

Joyce Law reported on a final report she prepared on the Historical Walk of Dover Borough. Joyce took a CD to Maureen App to post to the website, but she could not access the website because of the updates to be done by Brett Pfleiger. Joyce has a hard copy of the report if any member would like to review it and she gave a CD copy to Gayle Heagy for the archives.

Jo Ott and Vice President Stitley reported on the blacksmith shop open hours on Saturday. There were 19 signatures in the guestbook, including members. There were 11 visitors. Vice President Stitley reported that 2 women and a young boy visited toward the end of the open hours. The boy was very interested in Ted's work and learning about blacksmithing. Vice President Stitley said they expressed an interest in coming back to the blacksmith shop and Norma invited them to attend the historic walk.

President Shermeyer reported there are a couple changes to be made to the pen and ink drawing of the blacksmith shop – remove the flower pots and some shading. The light and “beware of dog” sign have already been removed. Gayle Heagy stated in order to prevent blurring of the drawing when it is reprinted, it will have to be drawn on a larger scale. President Shermeyer asked about adding some trees and Gayle said he removed the trees because they looked very small and stubby. A sample of the drawing was passed around for the members to review and make comments.

Vice President Stitley reminded members of the annual Historical Walk on June 17 at 6pm starting at the blacksmith shop. Ted will be working at the forge. Vice President Stitley asked for volunteers to bring snacks and drinks. The secretary will send an email to all members to remind them of the walk and will try to get an article to Joan Concilio to put in the newspaper.

Larry Law stated that Ted is requesting a narrator to be present for the blacksmith shop open hours so he does not have to stop and talk to visitors. Vice President Stitley stated that is the purpose of the photos and pamphlets so Ted can concentrate on his work. Joyce Law said those items do not explain

everything. President Shermeyer stated the photos and pamphlets do explain everything from the start to when Ted starts forging. President Shermeyer said Ted told Jo Ott the same steps he told Lisa Byerts so he should not have to stop working. Jo Ott is there to answer any questions, but Jo stated Ted does talk to visitors while he is working. Ted stated he feels he needs to talk and greet the visitors and explain why the blacksmith shop is here. Jo Ott stated she and other volunteers are at the table inside the door when visitors arrive so they can greet them, ask visitors to sign the guestbook and point out items available for sale. Jo stated people tend to gravitate to watch Ted more closely and he talks to the visitors. Ted wants a narrator there to explain each step he does when forging an item. After several minutes of discussion, Ron Botterbusch suggested a sign be placed near the forge asking visitors not to disturb the blacksmith and direct questions to the narrator; we could provide an ID badge for Jo Ott; Jo could describe what Ted is in the process of forging when visitors enter the blacksmith shop. The informational pamphlets should be handed out to visitors upon entering the blacksmith shop. It was suggested by President Shermeyer that we continue the current plan for another month to see how it goes. We can revisit this issue after the June open hours. Jo Ott stated she will continue to work with Joan Concilio at the Weekly Record to get coverage in the newspapers for the open hours and Vice President Stitley stated the sign boards posted to direct guests to the blacksmith shop in Ketterman Park worked out very well.

There being no further questions or any suggestions from the membership, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Koch

GDHS secretary