

Greater Dover Historical Society
October 20, 2011

The regular meeting of the Greater Dover Historical Society was called to order by President Madelyn Shermeyer at 6:30 p.m. at Calvary Lutheran Church in Dover. Members present were the following: Lori & Jeff Koch, Madelyn Shermeyer, Randy Worley, Chris & Bill Coleman, Jo Ott, Kay Stitley, Carol Leathery, Zita Smith, Norma Botterbusch, Grace Trimmer, Cindy Snyder, Gayle Heagy, Lois Slothower, Melanie Green and Mel Miller. The members stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Shermeyer presented the August 2011 minutes for approval and asked for any additions or corrections to the minutes. A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Jeff Koch and seconded by Chris Coleman. All voted in favor and motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report for September 2011 was presented for approval. There was a motion by Vice President Kay Stitley to approve the treasurer's report as presented and seconded by Jo Ott. All voted in favor and motion passed.

Assistant Archivist report – Gayle Heagy reported she received correspondence from the Emig family in Texas seeking information on the Emig family from Dover Township. Gayle stated she contacted the individual from the Spring Grove Historical Society, who originally received the letter; she believes they are looking for Woodrow Emig from West York Borough, who passed away within the last year.

Historian report – no report

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Landscaping Committee – Randy Worley reported the committee will meet tomorrow for a scheduled clean-up at the storage shed garden.

Board of Directors – no report

Adopt-a-Highway – Melanie Green read a thank-you letter she received from Mr. Thomas Fallon at PennDOT. There may be another clean-up scheduled before the end of the year.

OLD BUSINESS

Blacksmith Shop – Randy Worley reported the final clean-up at the Blacksmith Shop is completed except for the sweeping.

President Shermeyer reported that the GDHS has received a donation of \$500 from Graham Engineering Foundation. Our in-house blacksmith, Eli Nikkanen, assisted in seeking this donation. A thank you letter will be sent to Graham and this donation will be deposited into our cash reserve.

Dover Fair – Vice President Stitley reported that Jo Ott submitted an article for the newsletter about the fair. She also reported about all the items at Providence Place related to Governor Leader and

encouraged anyone who is interested to visit Providence Place to see all the items on display. Vice President Stitley was specifically looking for inaugural items (invitation, tickets, parking passes, etc.) and she found everything she wanted for the fair display. Jo Ott prepared photos of all the items for the display and these photos are in our GDHS archives. The weather did not cooperate this year; it rained most of the week and unfortunately, the basement area of the fire hall did have a few inches of water but the GDHS stand items were not damaged. Mike Deardorff had placed the boxes onto the table prior to the water clean-up. Vice President Stitley reported our glass display case contained military photos from Butch Myers and a woman donated a photo of Darron's of Dover. A woman and her son stopped by the display and saw the Darron's photo and mentioned this is where they currently live. Total sales/donations were \$76 and volunteers worked 83 hours.

Tree at BSS – President Shermeyer reported there is a locust tree at the rear of Blacksmith Shop has branches which are touching the roof. Harry Shermeyer had offered to cut the tree down about 2 years ago but was told by a Borough Councilman that it is a Borough park and it is the responsibility of the Borough to take down the tree. Dr. Drawbaugh said locust trees draw lightning so this is a dangerous situation which should be addressed accordingly. Lori Koch will bring up the issue of this tree at the next Borough Council meeting.

Bellows – President Shermeyer reported we do not have a donor sheet on record for the bellows and Randy Worley stated that Eli knows where it came from and who donated it. Jeff Koch will contact Eli to get the donor information. We will contact the donor to see if they would like to take the bellows back; if they decline, we can offer it to East Berlin Historical Society or Dillsburg Historical Society. Randy Worley took a photo of the bellows, which we will have blown up and posted on board so Eli can reference the photo during his demonstrations.

NEW BUSINESS

President Shermeyer stated the Board of Directors and officers must decide on a date for the annual budget meeting. It is usually held during the first week of November and a meeting date of November 3 was agreed to beginning at 7:00pm at Lois Slothower's home. Committee chairs were reminded to submit their budget request to Bill Coleman by November 1.

President Shermeyer stated that job descriptions for officers and board of directors are on the table for any member who may be interested in seeking one of the positions. The nominating committee was appointed by President Shermeyer – Zita Smith, Lois Slothower and Chris Coleman. Any member who is interested in running for a position should contact a member of the committee no later than November 10, in order for the ballots to be prepared for our November 17 meeting. Two board members are up for election – Jeff Koch and Melanie Green.

Email correspondence – President Shermeyer reported an email was received from Blake Stough, who authors the "Preserving York" blog. He blogs about York County history and he is seeking contact information for the GDHS and President Shermeyer responded to him with the appropriate information.

Website email – President Shermeyer reported that an email was submitted to the GDHS website from Ann Griffin expressing her appreciation for the "Others" link on the website which she utilized as a genealogy resource for her students. Ms. Griffin is a librarian and also shared another webpage resource, "Find People from the Past", which can be added to the GDHS kid's page link. The Board of

Directors voted to approve the addition of this link to our webpage. President Shermeyer will ask Tom Miles to add the link and will notify Ms. Griffin accordingly.

Road grader – President Shermeyer reported the road grader donated by the Hoffman family to the GDHS is stored at their home and needs to be moved. Grace Spahr’s father used to operate the grader on Dover Township roadways. Since the GDHS does not have a place to display it, she will contact the donors (Dave and Mike Hoffman) asking if they would like the road grader back; if they decline, we will offer to donate it to the Agriculture and Industrial Museum in York. The grader is extremely heavy and is approximately 6 feet long. Members discussed the possibility of placing the road grader in the grass area at Blacksmith Shop but it could present a safety issue. Randy Worley made a motion to put the grader at the BSS; the motion failed for lack of a second. A motion was made by Jo Ott, seconded by Gayle Heagy, to donate the road grader to the Museum if the Hoffman family declines to take it back. All voted in favor and the motion passed. Jeff Koch stated Melanie Green suggested if the Museum declines the donation offer, we could take it the Mount Royal Auction.

Cement blocks – President Shermeyer reported there are 15 extra cement blocks at her property and there are also 10 extra blocks in the storage shed. It was suggested that the blocks at the Shermeyer property be placed curbside and marked “free”.

President Shermeyer reminded members to submit their volunteer hours to Bill Coleman. Committee chairs were reminded to send their budget requests to Bill before November 1.

President Shermeyer reported that Dover Township is hosting their annual Halloween in the Park on October 28 from 6-8pm. You can bring a non-perishable food item for the Dover Food Bank and receive a free hot dog or drink. President Shermeyer also reported the Township had planned an open house dedication for the Brookside Park carousel building, but unfortunately an occupancy permit cannot be issued until several construction items were completed. The dedication will be scheduled in the spring of 2012.

President Shermeyer reported that Gayle Heagy had submitted an application to the York County Heritage program to include the Blacksmith Shop to be designated as an historic site. The application was approved by the YCPC and a certificate issued to the GDHS. President Shermeyer and Lori Koch attended the YCPC meeting to receive the certificate, which is now framed for display. We plan to display at the Dover Township Building and perhaps other local business locations. Gayle Heagy explained that the Blacksmith Shop will appear in a York County tourist guidebook and map of historic attractions in the county which is distributed to visitors. Gayle is hoping to submit the jailhouse and other historic sites in Dover in the next application round.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Jo Ott mentioned that Eli carved small wooden anvils and it was discussed that we could set up a small table at the BSS open houses for kids to make items out of clay or play dough, like a blacksmith does. It would be an educational and interactive program for the kids.

Randy Worley asked if website updates are being done. The membership list and Board of Directors list should be updated, along with the online store order form. Randy also stated the building at Brookside Park where we held our picnic was a very nice location and about 17 people were there. Randy asked about purchasing bug spray for the BSS. He has sprayed the shop monthly and it costs \$28 per gallon. He was advised to submit a budget request for bug spray.

Gayle Heagy stated that the blacksmith is to make items of historic nature, but she suggested that "Bo Peep" hooks be made to hang flowers and bird feeders. Jeff Koch said that Eli does plan to make small items once he gets better organized.

There being no further questions or suggestions from the membership, the meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Koch
GDHS secretary