

Union County Historical
Society
“Exploring Union County’s Past to Inform the Present and
Future”
Board Meeting
11 11
March

Bruce Teeple called the Zoom meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with Barb Franck, Lonnie Hill, Mike Molesevich, Jeff Reber, Eli Reiff, Darren Rhyne, Kathy Swope, and Matt Wagner participating and thus constituting a quorum to conduct business.
Financial and Programming Coordinator Dan Bower also participated.
Phyllis Dyer and Mary Kay Harper were unable to participate.

Revision of DEW Conservation Easement Agreement – Kathy reported on her lengthy conversation with Allen Schweinsberg. For historical context, the Walkers established the easement with the local Audubon Society chapter and the Linn Conservancy (LC) in 1989. In 2001, UCHS assumed ownership of the property. In 2018, the Conservancy began conducting an annual Current Conditions Report. The proposed changes attempt to align the current language with the model recommended by the PA Land Trust Association (PALTA).

Kathy suggested that we review several sections of the proposed Easement revisions and establish a better negotiating position:

- The pro-LC slant in the language and proposals
- To ensure that LC meets its objectives, UCHS must submit any proposed changes at DEW to the LC for a 30-day review. If LC objects, the revised version says they do not need to give a reason. UCHS would assume any and all legal costs that may arise.
- If any section of the DEW property is seized through eminent domain, LC would collect all money from the property transfer.
- If LC is sued, UCHS must assume all liability costs

Mike objected to the obscure language in the proposed changes, stating that it unnecessarily complicates matters.

If we don’t agree to the revisions, then the current agreement would remain in effect. Our insurance carrier can tell us if we need to indemnify LC and how much it would cost. Mike suggested that we hire the same attorney who handled the cabin situation a few years ago. Kathy, Lonnie, and Mike agreed to check with the insurance agent, meet with Allen and Geoff to investigate our options, and report to the Board at our 11 May meeting.

Minutes of January Meeting – Bruce sent out the minutes on 8 January. If no one objects, they stand approved as submitted.

Treasurer’s and Financial & Programming Coordinator’s Report – In addition to the submitted written reports, Mike and Kathy asked Eli to create a Public Service Announcement thanking Louise for her tireless efforts to obtain new TODS signs and to rewrite UCHS’s founding documents. Dan added that we should send another thank-you to Donna Slear’s heirs

for their generous donation. Matt will send a letter to the IRS, asking them for forgiveness and to reimburse our \$2,600 fine. He will meet with our accountant, Doug Parker, around 15 April so we can meet the 990's 15 May filing deadline.

Committee Reports

Archives & Collections – Matt reported that he was able to obtain the entire collection of the *Mifflinburg Telegraph*. He is checking with Sue Kellerman at PSU about microfilming and/or digitizing that collection where needed.

DEW– Bruce asked that we try to close/repair the cabin windows.

Finance – Bruce will schedule a meeting of the Financial Committee to review the Gifts and Endowments Form and the 2022 budget, and to discuss other sources of revenue.

Fundraising – Bruce will send Lonnie a list of those members who indicated interest in participating. Then we can form an exploratory subcommittee to examine the feasibility of organizing a Capital Campaign committee.

Membership – Kathy is working with Brett Hosterman, who will send a prototype of the website design for the Board's approval. Bruce mentioned a few of the pamphlet/booklet publication ideas that Dan, Kathy, and he have been discussing. The Noll-Spangler Farm event will be on 17 July; West End Fair will be held from 1-7 August; and Christkindl will be from 9-11 December.

Outreach – Bruce reported that the MPower program with Mifflinburg High School seniors is exceeding all expectations. Barb added that PSU's covid restrictions have quashed this year's maple sap gathering. Susan Chlebowski informed the group that the Nature School is going well. The Children's Museum also would like to hold program at the DEW in May. They agreed to provide the necessary insurance documentation and will pay the DEW use fee. We will set a date in September to dedicate the Milne-Druckenmiller Cabin. If all goes well, we should resume DEW tours sometime in late May or early June.

On a motion by Matt and Mike, the meeting adjourned at 7:45.

NEXT MEETING: 11 MAY, 4 P.M., AT THE DEW HOUSE!!!!