

Union County Historical Society  
“Exploring Union County’s Past to Inform the Present and Future”  
Board Meeting Minutes  
11 May 2021

At 4 p.m., Bruce Teeple called the meeting to order at the DEW House with Phyllis Dyer, Barb Franck, Lonnie Hill, Mike Molesevich, Sue Rapp, Jeff Reber, Darren Rhyne, Kathy Swope, and Matt Wagner present, thus constituting a quorum to conduct business.

Barb Franck and Eli Reiff were unable to participate.

**Announcements** - Bruce acknowledged the loss of Mary Kay Harper and her invaluable contributions to UCHS.

- He thanked Dan for his two years of service to UCHS; Elaine for agreeing to fill in for the interim; and Lloyd Zimmerman for spreading stones on the lane.
- He also announced that PennDOT has finally installed the new TODS road signs along Rte. 192 and Strawbridge Rd.

The group agreed to approve the minutes of the 8 March Board meeting.

**Treasurer’s Report** – Matt reported that we have already spent 63% of the budgeted expenditures for the year. He will develop hourly sheets to reflect UCHS’s new office hours. He noted that UCHS’s Vanguard accounts are composed of an Organization Account and a separate Corporate Account (for DEW). He suggested that we investigate alternatives that permit diversification and yield a better return.

**Conservation Easement Agreement** - Kathy, Lonnie & Mike will report on suggested revisions to this at a future Board meeting.

**Archives & Collections** - Matt announced that UCHS now has all back issues of the *Mifflinburg Telegraph* from 1862-2014. Microfilming any issues we don’t currently have will complete the collection.

- Stephen Richard plans to donate an extensive collection of Union County videos.
- Matt emphasized the need to digitize the film and the Oral Traditions tape recordings so we can reduce the space and weight demands on DEW’s second floor.

**DEW** - Mike reported on the potability of DEW's water.

- The water will probably need to be treated or we'll need to continue bringing outside sources of water.
- On a motion by Kathy and Matt, the group agreed to pay \$200-\$300 for a proper field test and analysis of the current water supply.
- On a motion by Matt and Darren, the group authorized Mike to evaluate the septic system.
- Bruce emphasized that the 2022 budget needs to budget money for repairing the corn crib roof, weatherizing the house, fixing the DEW porch, and re-orienting the south roof gutter.

Discussion of a draft of the Event Rental Policy focused on:

- requiring a security deposit of \$100
- charging \$50 for events lasting less than two hours
- requiring a UCHS representative during the event
- UCHS mowing the grass 3-4 days before the event
- increasing fees to \$75 involving for-profit organizations and to \$25 for non-profits.
- requiring all adults to have clearances
- requiring a minimum of 2 adults and one other adult for every 10 additional underage attendees

Lonnie suggested that we keep 1-2 porta-potties at DEW throughout the season. Matt will investigate the costs.

**Finance** - Mike suggested that we join other area organizations, such as the Chamber of Commerce and the Lewisburg Downtown Partnership.

- Matt presented a draft of the Revised Gifts & Endowments Policy and noted that we need to bring this to the attention of UCHS members.
- Phyllis added that publicizing this will encourage more public awareness.
- Matt asked that the committee review this policy and eventually designate a manager to guide the money toward the appropriate needs of UCHS. Jeff offered to help the committee. Mike agreed to seek Kim Ranck's advice.

**Fundraising** - Kathy suggested that the Board consider discussing a vision for DEW's future at its next meeting.

**Membership** – Kathy reported that the website will launch on 1 July, with changes occurring every two weeks. On a motion by Sue and Phyllis, the group agreed to pay Brett Hosterman \$75 to create a new logo that represents the entire county.

- Kathy mentioned the need to explore different ways of using the new website, such as offering vintage photographs for sale once the website debuts on 1 July. We also need to develop programming for the rest of 2021. She added that we need to provide incentives (e.g.: special programs, member events, annual signature events, etc.) for people to join UCHS and to generate revenue.

**Outreach** – Bruce reported that UCHS may be eligible for money derived from the sale of Boy Scout property, but it must go toward children’s programming.

- Kathy suggested that we investigate programming involving the 4-H and local Scout troops. Lonnie will ask the Scout offices how many troops are in the area.
- Bruce reported that DEW tours were held in April for the Catholic Adults of Brooklyn and for BILL. PSU-OLLI tour of DEW will be in September. Free Summer Sunday tours will be from 11-3 p.m. on 6 and 27 June, 18 and 25 July, 15 and 29 August, and 11 and 26 September.
- Nature School Programs at DEW were just completed.
- Children’s Museum Programs at DEW – UCHS received \$500 in grant-sharing money.
- Shikellamy monument re-dedication at Central Oak Heights will be on 1 August at 2 p.m. Bruce, Kathy and Matt will meet with COH representatives on 2 June, 6:30 p.m., at DEW to discuss cleaning the plaque and confirm ceremony details.
- Milne-Druckenmiller Cabin dedication – The tentative date is 11 September, but Kathy will confirm with Marcia Milne and her family.
- On a motion by Kathy and Matt, the group approved replacing the annual calendar with a vintage photo album.
- Union County Library may be open again soon for programs. Emilie Jansma would like to do a program on the history of Laurelton Center. Bruce will contact Van Gosse about a program on Black Reconstruction in Pennsylvania.

Following an executive session to discuss the revised office job descriptions, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

**Next meeting: 8 June, 4 p.m. at DEW**