

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

Bruce Teeple called the meeting to order with the following participants: Phyllis Dyer, Barb Franck, Susan Rapp, Jeff Reber, Eli Reiff, Darren Rhyne, Kathy Swope, and Matt Wagner, thus constituting a quorum to conduct business. Mary Kay Harper, Lonnie Hill, and Mike Molesevich were unable to attend.

Also present were Dan Bower and Susan Chlebowski.

Bruce began by welcoming new Board members, Susan Rapp and Lonnie Hill, as well as our guest, Susan Chlebowski.

**Terms of Office** – The group agreed with the following term lengths:

Jan. 2021 – Dec. 2023 - Matt, Lonnie, Susan (up for re-election in 2024).

Jan. 2022 – Dec. 2024 - Mary Kay, Barb, Kathy, & Mike will be up for re-election. Jeff Reber chose not to run again.

Jan. 2023 – Dec. 2025 – Bruce, Darren, Phyllis, & Eli up for re-election

**Election of Officers**

- On a motion by Kathy and Jeff, the Board voted to re-elect Bruce as President.
- On a motion by Matt and Eli, the Board voted to re-elect Kathy as Vice President.
- On a motion by Matt and Kathy, the Board voted to re-elect Eli as Secretary.
- On a motion by Kathy and Susan, the Board voted to re-elect Matt as Treasurer.

**Nature School**

Susan Chlebowski presented her revised Nature School proposal. The school would meet on the DEW property every Thursday, from February to April, for six hours. After a lengthy discussion, the group approved Matt and Eli’s motion directing Bruce to draft a letter and ask the Nature School to pay a daily \$30 compensation fee for maintenance and utilities.

**Approval of November Minutes**

On a motion by Eli and Matt, the Board approved the minutes from the November meeting.

**Reports from Treasurer and Financial and Programming Coordinator**

Matt and Dan reported that UCHS members have responded well to the new membership levels. They also plan to post the reports on the new website, once it’s operational. Matt will shop for the best return on the CD maturing on 17 January.

### *Access to Bank Accounts and Safe Deposit Box*

On a motion by Matt and Eli, the Board unanimously agreed to authorize the same individuals to access all accounts as we had in 2020.

### *Standing Committee Rosters*

*Archives & Collections* – Matt, Phyllis, Susan, and Dan

*DEW* – Mike, Bruce, Darren, Eli

*Finance* – Bruce, Jeff, Mike, Kathy, Matt, Mary Kay, and Dan

*Fundraising* – Lonnie, Eli, Matt, Kathy, and Dan

*Membership* – Bruce, Kathy, Matt, Barb, Mary Kay, Dan, and Elaine

*Outreach* – Bruce, Kathy, Matt, Barb, Eli, Darren, Mike

### *Ad Hoc Committee*

Bruce appointed Matt, Kathy, and Barb to join him on the Nominations Committee.

### *Committee Reports*

*Archives & Collections* (Matt & Phyllis) – On a motion by Matt and Eli, the Board agreed with the A&C Committee recommendation to deaccession and donate various Lewisburg High School items to the Alumni Association. Matt added that he has sought bids for converting the Oral Traditions tapes to a digital format.

*DEW* (Mike)

- Survey update – more will be reported at the March Board meeting.

*Membership*

- Bruce will ask Elaine to compile and disseminate a list of Board members' addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses.
- Kathy and Matt submitted proposals from Firespring and Brett Hosterman on website creation and development. This new site will allow for more flexibility and versatility. Since time is of the essence, Kathy and Matt will join Barb, Dan, Jeff as a subcommittee to investigate and submit final proposals for the Board's approval through email.
- Once the new website is operational, Kathy proposed that we can post mini sessions on researching house histories for a fee (Deeds, Sanborn Maps, Census, etc.) beginning in March. She also suggested that we conduct a trial "members only" Zoom meeting in February with an interesting Union County historical presentation of 30 minutes and any announcements (45 minute maximum)

### *Outreach*

- Bruce reported that Penn State's OLLI and Bucknell's BILL groups plan to have programs at DEW in April.
- He also announced that AASLH has awarded UCHS with a Gold certificate for Mission, Vision and Governance.
- Kathy agreed to serve as liaison with SUN-Tech in awarding the Bill Clemons Scholarship.

### **Other Business**

- Matt, Eli, Kathy, and Dan agreed to join Lonnie in forming a Capital Campaign Exploratory Subcommittee and look for other community members to participate.

On a motion by Eli and Barb, the meeting adjourned at 8:15.

**NEXT MEETING ON THURSDAY, 11 MARCH, AT 6:30 P.M.**

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!!!!**

Union County Historical Society  
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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**

Union County Historical Society  
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Vision Meeting Notes  
8 June 2021

Phyllis Dyer, Mike Molesevich, Sue Rapp, Eli Reiff, Darren Rhyne, Ralph Sayers, Kathy Swope, Matt Wagner, and Bruce Teeple met at 4 p.m. on the DEW porch.

The purpose was to examine ways to promote our mission and make UCHS and its holdings more sustainable.

Mike led off by suggesting that we

- begin weatherizing the house and complete the steps outlined in his energy audit
- switch from oil to an alternative source of energy, such as propane, for the house
- consider coating the corn crib’s and barn’s roof with a bright and white paint and perhaps install solar panels
- connect the heat pump system to the downstairs
- abandon the idea of replacing the windows and restore them instead by re-glazing and re-caulking

Eli added that we can retrofit and install propane to the existing system.

Matt recommended that we ask people to donate money toward specific projects.

Phyllis suggested that we direct donations by arranging and presenting projects by costs rather than by priority. She added that water and sewage treatments should be our top priority. After a lengthy discussion, the group authorized Mike to contact a lab, have them complete a water analysis, and recommend a suitable treatment, possibly using fabric filters and ultraviolet light.

Matt’s work with the sewage disposal contractor revealed that DEW has a 500-gallon tank (now clean), and that the drainage field is in good shape.

Matt also wants to buy and place additional glass display cases in the current gift shop area after we remove some of the existing cabinets and re-install them in the new barn.

Phyllis suggested that we could hold a yard sale as a fundraiser at DEW with items donated by members and the community at large.

Sue suggested using offsite displays throughout the county as “teasers” to encourage traffic to DEW. She added that Brett Hosterman can post videos of aerial drone shots on the new website.

Darren suggested investigating various platforms, such as Patreon, to encourage donations through our website’s podcasts. This could also include automatic payment plans.

The meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.