

ST. MICHAEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES: February 11th, 2013

Bob Zahler, President, called the Board Meeting of the St. Michael Historical Society to order at 7:00 PM in the Library Conference Room, Room 116. The directors present were Sheldon Barthel, Rose Ann Gindele, Brendan Sage, Dan Lenz, John Robeck, Stephen Barthel, John Jaeb, Wayne Kessler, Lisa Marx, Harry Welter, and Earl Vetsch. The minutes from the January 14th meeting were approved as read.

Reports & Business

President's Report – Bob had nothing to report for this month.

Treasurer's Report – The balance was reported to be at \$7,452.62 with a total of \$45.00 in expenses, and \$205.00 in deposits.

Website – As of the evening of the 11th of February, our website visits numbered at 437,266; with a 33,523 increase from the last meeting. Steve noted that he added a marriages/divorces tab on the website and is working on a general “deaths” page. He also explained the lengthy conversation with the state archivist on the matter of the legalities of the society's website. She said birth certificates are public; Steve was still hesitant of posting certain information. The archivist also informed Steve to keep all adoptions and illegitimate births disclosed for one hundred years. Steve suggested having Crystal or the state (at no cost) to copy records digitally to free up some space.

Media Specialist – Crystal could not attend the meeting due to family issues.

Newsletter – Sheldon was happy to report that twenty members had chosen to receive the newsletters via email and save the society on postage and printing expenses.

Membership – Sheldon shared that there were a total of 104 members with only 15 members not being paid for the 2013 year. He will send “final” notices to the unpaid members and if no action is taken then they will face suspension.

Old Business – The audit of the financial records has been taken care of until the annual meeting. Also, Harry officially donated his collection of Bierstube beer mugs that are planned on being placed in the display case.

New Business – Bob discussed the new article to be in the spring newsletter regarding “cemetery clean up” and the importance of keeping gravestones clean. Steve brought up the idea of keeping the event restricted for adults or insert a warning stating that the society is not responsible for children's safety. Some ideas that floated around the room were of having a seminar on how to correctly and safely clean a gravestone, offering community service, and even advertise the event to help identify an ancestor in the old cemetery. Bob suggested on posting an article informing the community on the confusion that the society and the church are not responsible for the upkeep of the gravestones. Bob reminded the society that the annual meeting is approaching in April and all five directors showed interest in running for re-election.

Announcements – The next meeting will take place on March 11th at 7:00 PM in the Library Conference Room, Room 116.

Adjournment – Harry motioned to end the meeting. Lisa seconded it. The meeting adjourned at 7:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Brendan Sage, Secretary