

ST. MICHAEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES: July 8, 2019

A special meeting of the St. Michael Historical Society was called by president Calvin Schoen in order to discuss the recent awarding of a Minnesota Legacy Grant to the society for the purpose of confirming the location of the first cemetery near Berning's Mill. President Schoen called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM at the library conference room at City Hall. Members present included President Schoen, Brendan Sage, Bob Zahler, Lisa Marx, Harry Welter, Harvey Zahler, Earl Vetsch, John Robeck, Dan Lenz, Lyle Barthel, and John Jaeb. A quorum was present.

President Schoen called upon Bob Zahler to bring the Board up to date on what has transpired regarding the grant. Bob reviewed the process that had been followed since the inception of the idea to apply for a grant. Property owner Cary Berning initially gave his verbal consent to allow the historical society to conduct the search using noninvasive technology. After the first grant request was denied in November 2018, Bob applied again in April 2019 following the suggestions of the grants office to request more money to do a more extensive study of the site. This grant was approved with the official notice having been sent on June 14, 2019. The notification letter, however, sat in the society mailbox at City Hall for two weeks and the letter required action to accept the grant within 30 days, which prompted the calling of the special meeting since the next regularly scheduled meeting was not to be until August.

Bob stated that there was, however, an impediment in moving forward in that he had learned that Cary Berning was having second thoughts about giving permission to allow the search. As of the night of this meeting, Bob had yet been able to meet with Mr. Berning to understand the nature of his concerns. After some discussion by board members, Bob made the motion that the Board accept the grant with an attached contingency notice that the society did not wish to move forward without the property owner's explicit permission to conduct the search. Harry seconded the motion with all those in attendance approving.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Zahler, acting secretary