

Delaware County Historical Association Board Meeting
Friday February 17, 2017 10:00am

Present: Barbara Coleman, Tom Kendall, Dick Meyer, Ginny Sanford, Roy Scrimshaw, Mike Wood and Tim Duerden. Minutes taken by Angela Gaffney.

Absent: Peggy Kearney, Kay Parisi-Hampel.

I. Review of January 2017 minutes

Dick asks for clarification on what the new endowment is. Tim explains how he sent a request to the Burchan Trust managed by the Community Bank in Oneonta for \$5,000 for plaster work in the Frisbee House. The director of the trust came to DCHA to meet with Tim and see DCHA. After the meeting he explained instead of giving a one-time donation he would like to set up a \$30,000 trust that DCHA would get quarterly payments from.

II. Committee Reports

Collections – Walter Rich items – Tim explains the Walter Rich Items have been cataloged and stored for one year. The paper work and report was sent to the Catskill Revitalization Corp. - U&D RR.

Physical Plant – Church – Tim reports he did not contact RAG after the last meeting because he thought more discussion was needed on what could be done with the Church. The Church is one of the most complete buildings, historical and architecturally untouched. Some of the reasons we have not used the church much is that we have good program space here that is easier to use. No parking at the church making difficult access. There is no running water. Not sure we want to be landlords.

Other options would be to give the church to another non-profit group or sell the building. DCHA got the church in 1990, given to us by the last active members of the church. The minutes show that the Frisbee-Frisbie Family Association (FFFA) contacted DCHA about acquiring the church. They wanted a place to store their collections and have a display. They didn't have the ability to acquire a building, but suggested if DCHA acquired it and made an agreement with them the FFFA could help with some of the funding needed. No agreement was ever reached. And the funding did not happen immediately.

Question if we decide to get rid of the church can be give it back to the people who gave it to DCHA. No, DCHA acquired the church through a Quit Claim Deed. In 1992 Hawley appraised the church to be \$15,000 - \$20,000. In his report he suggests lack of parking and plumbing make the value lower. Also might be difficult to get plumbing since it is in the watershed.

Tim overviews: sees the options as being to keep it, rent it or sell it. Whatever is done, feels we do not want to upset anyone, so we should talk to the Frisbees before anything major is done. Tim explains that "best museum practice," looking at the building as an object, would be to give the building to another non-profit. Suggested the popularity of destination wedding; Maple Shade does a lot with this. Tim says we could talk to Maple Shade. They had approached DCHA a while ago about this, but nothing ever came of it. Moving the church is not really an option, cost prohibitive. How many

weddings would you need to have to recoup the cost? Kathleen LaFrank from the State Historic Preservation Office was very upset to hear DCHA was even thinking of it. It would lose its historic registry status.

Suggestion if rent or sale of the church is the direction DCHA wants to go, we should contact a realtor and get their opinion and ideas. You can make a long-term 5-year lease, or sell the building and hold the mortgage. You can put stipulations in the rental agreement, they have to hold, maintain insurance, etc. Keep the building historic.

Question: if we are able to lease the building and add plumbing would it change the historic status? It being in the watershed may make adding plumbing difficult. Roy makes a motion to contact a realtor and get their opinion. Dick seconds the motion. Discussion on what realtor, suggest a realtor who had ties to the city. Ask if they can come to the next board meeting. All in favor of motion to have realtor come speak to the board. Request Tim contact Lumia Realty.

Programs, Publications & Exhibits – County Office Bldg. Exhibit – is still up, it was extended through the end of February. It is based on the *Hats Off* book. **Anti-Rent book** – DCHA's next publication. Tim has met with a Professor at SUNY Oneonta who asked DCHA a few months ago about publishing his book on Anti-Rent War poems and songs from the 1840s. **Poorhouse** – This Saturday is the Poorhouse presentation.

Public Relations – CCAL presentations – Ray did two presentations for the Center for Continued Adult Learning. One on Bob Wyer and one on genealogy. He was representing DCHA. **Fox TV** from Binghamton is coming on Thursday, March 2 to film the Frisbee House, wants history on the house.

Question about the Road Race – Tim reports the plan is for a pilot rally September 24 & 25. Kingston to Unadilla. Robert Selkowitz is going to speak to the Franklin Rotary next week.

Finance – Roy reports: Profit and Loss for Feb. 2016 through Feb. 2017 shows a net loss of \$12,000. Tim reports: As of February 17 we have \$48,454 in our general checking account. **Del. Co.** - \$9000 received from the county. **Santora Grant** – haven't gotten any extra Santora money. Tim spoke with someone at the bank and they have changed the time they meet so we should get something at the end of the month or in March if they approve it. Renee from Fenimore Asset Management is coming to the May Board meeting. **Financial Review** - The review is done, everything looks ok. Cost was \$3,500 instead of \$4,000 because they did not do a site visit.

III. Director's Report

Desserts & Diaries – Great success. Second year doing it and we had 42 people and made \$360.

Basket Workshops – a raging success. The first workshop was last Saturday, and we had the maximum of 12 people. It was so popular we scheduled a second class for March 12 and that is full.

“Making History” Conference, May 6 – we have this every other year. Tim reports that someone suggested we get someone from Harpersfield and Sidney to talk about their different recent experiences. Tim asks if Tom (Harpersfield) and Mike (Sidney) would be willing to come to the History Conference and talk. Mike said he could talk. Tom will see.

IV. Old Business

Strategic Plan – Tom would like to see this go forward. The Frisbee House report should be part of the plan. Need to establish goals and follow through on them. Dick asks if we want to invite Dan Ayres back to facilitate. Question: what exactly were we planning for? Financial? Maintenance? Tom explains we need to establish short and long term goals. The plan should include all things, financial, membership, building maintenance. Suggested a start of the plan would be the actual physical site, what needs to be done. Dick suggests setting a time for each meeting, what we want to do for the top things of strategic plan. All agree the Frisbee House should be the priority. Tom wants to see the porch put back on the house. Tim and Angela do not think the porch should be put back on. It would not go with the period of significance of the house, ie the creation of the county in 1797. Tom would also like to see the back shed on the house be redone and fixed up to be part of the tour and for exhibits. Mike asks what everyone wants to accomplish this year. Dick would like to concentrate on the outside of the house. Tom says the foundation needs work, holes need to be closed and the ground needs to be regraded to slope water away from the house. The windows also need re-glazing. Roy points out regular maintenance needs to be done on the gutters, emptying them, that would help with the water drainage. Dick ask for a motion to be put forward. Tom makes a motion to focus on the Frisbee House. Do the foundation work first and then regrade the ground around the outside. Barbara seconds. Mike suggest this could all be put together as one job to ask contractors for quotes. Mike suggests asking Cohen and Frazier for a quote. Suggestion to ask if Curtis Lumber could suggest anyone. Need to get at least two bids. All in favor.

Mike suggests we need a seasonal maintenance guy, someone who can clean the gutters etc. Tom suggests the Green Thumb, there is an ad in the paper this company provides people with annual maintenance workers. The Office of the Aging would know how to contact them

V. New Business

Raffle item needed – Tim reports we need a new raffle item. Dick reports he keep his eye out at auction for quilts. Tim agrees quilts seem to raise the most.

Bus Trip – Tim reports we are looking at Seneca Falls for the next bus trip in June. It was the birthplace of women's suffrage. The whole village is historic. Also have a boat ride, either on the lake or a canal.

Next Board Meeting: Friday March 10, 2017

11:40am Tom makes a motion to adjourn. Roy seconds. All agree.