



## Board Meeting at Loken's Inn Meeting Room May 1, 2023

**Call to order:** President Terri Benson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Board members Jack O'Donnell, Nancy Snyder, Kari Meyer, Anne Spartz, and Sally Ryman were in attendance. Pat Georgens, Nancy Rustad and Diane Luhmann were also present. Jackie Becker was unable to attend.

**Secretary's Report:** Minutes of the April 3 board meeting were posted on the website. Moved by Nancy S., seconded by Kari, to approve the April minutes. Motion carried.

Website Updates – Dr. Droivold's books are now in searchable PDF files and can be accessed online for people who have the URL. The page has not been published. Contents of the PDF files won't show up in a browser search as the PDF file has to be open to search for a name or keyword. There are several options for using these files, including making it public or charging for a password to use them. Those at the meeting were encouraged to play around with it before we make any decisions on who can access the files.

Donate Online – Squarespace, our web hosting service, has the ability to donate online with PayPal or Stripe. The board decided it's worth looking into and maybe launch it at end of year when send out the annual report and request annual donations. Sally will investigate more how the PayPal or Stripe accounts have to be set up to interface with the website.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jack reported the following balances as of April 30, 2023:

1. Checking (.25%) – \$14,502.34 – Since April 30, he has paid the hardware store \$30.09. The April 30 balance includes receipt of \$500 from MiEnergy Operation Round Up, \$3.06 of interest, phone bill of \$117.97, and a gas bill of \$119.62. He noted that donations slowed down in April.
2. Money Market (4%) – \$13,664.47 (includes \$44.78 interest)
3. CD (12 month@ 4.25%) - \$51,534.45 (includes \$534.45 interest)

Moved by Sally, seconded by Nancy S., to approve the treasurers report as presented. Motion carried.

### Meeting Discussion

- The Hart Store display cases were received. Two are in the schoolhouse; Jack and Jim put wheels on them to make easier to move. One is in the log house and needs the front glass fixed. A-1 Glass quoted \$150 for plexiglass installed and \$250 for glass installed. The cabinets were made by John Arndt. Jack will look into getting plexiglass from Menard's.
- T-shirts – Six XL and six 2XL green Rushford Lager t-shirts have been ordered to replenish missing sizes.
- Outreach to our community – On May 2, the monthly donor email will be sent out. It's a short article about the underground railroad in Rushford with more information on the website.
- Community celebrations and interactions:
  - a. Houston Area Museum soft opening is May 13 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and May 14 1-4 p.m. It was noted that May is national historic preservation month. Check the Houston Area Museum Facebook page for more information.
  - b. Rushford Days is the weekend of July 14 –Very few people visited the depot last year. Although we didn't sell many t-shirts at Creekside, there was a good deal of engagement with people interested

in history. After much discussion, it was decided to (1) have a copy of the “track” sign on A-frame at Creekside, (2) work with the Rushford Festivities Committee on the space, and (3) sell Rushford Lager t-shirts. Maybe have a few relics to catch people’s attention, something large. Sally will reach out to Brenda Tesch to see if MiEnergy could print the sign. Kari and Sally volunteered to staff the tent. Terri suggested having it open from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Saturday, but she’ll talk to Jen Hengel on what would work best.

- c. Bike Across Minnesota (BAM) – August 17 – opportunity to raise money with activities – will talk about it next month.

New t-shirt ideas included a design with the bluff and RAHS logo or the bluff and rushfordhistory.com. We should have long-sleeve t-shirts too. Sally will ask Sandy at J&D’s Special T’s to draft some examples to review at our June meeting to have them for BAM. (Sandy did the Rushford Lager tees for us.) The board also discussed selling prints of a bluff watercolor that Nancy S. has.

**Adjournment:** Moved by Nancy S., seconded Jack, to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. Motion carried.

**Next meeting – June 5, Loken’s Inn, 6:00 p.m.**

FUTURE MEETING TOPICS

**June: Genealogy classes, t-shirts, BAM**

**July:**