



Board Meeting at Loken's Inn Meeting Room November 6, 2023

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Board members Terri Benson, Jack O'Donnell, Jackie Becker, Nancy Snyder, Anne Spartz and Sally Ryman were in attendance. Member Pat Georgens was also present. Kari Meyer was absent.

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the October 2 board meeting were posted on the website. Moved by Jackie, seconded by Jack, to approve the October minutes. Motion carried.

Grant Next Steps: The Minnesota Historical Society's Historic Resources Advisory Committee has recommended approval of our \$254,953 grant for depot foundation stabilization construction. We can't really do anything with the building until after the official notice to proceed (Dec.) and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) review, which can take up to 60 days after the January 1 project start date.

I invited Todd Grover to join our December 4 meeting via Zoom to discuss if we can reconfigure the visitors' center during the foundation project. We will discuss having the restrooms closer to the door, moving the plumbing away from the north wall, and a more cohesive storage/utility area and museum area. Questions I posed to him are: Is it possible? What would we have to fund? When would it be incorporated into the planning process?

Sally noted we should start planning fundraising activities to start after we get official approval to raise funds for the roof and other repairs. The board agreed we should apply for the National Railway Historical Society grant, and Sally will draft an application to meet the January 31 deadline.

- Annual Report / fundraising letter – It was decided to send an annual report newsletter to members in November and hold off on fundraising until 2024.
- Revise sign outside depot (next to tracking sign)
- Conversations with banks and Rushford Community Foundation about a matching fundraiser in the spring – goal would be to quadruple donations a month up to a maximum approved by each organization
- Businesses and organizations
- National Railway Historical Society – Railway Heritage Grants – applications for \$5,000 grants are due January 31
- MN Energy Resources – quarterly deadlines January 31, April 30, July 31, October 31 – Arts and Culture is one of their areas of giving - support some capital campaigns, but most giving is for programs or projects.

MNHS Small Grant – Sally proposed applying for a MNHS oral history small grant by the January 12 deadline. We've talked about this for some time and it likely won't happen unless we can hire someone to do the interviews. The board identified quite a few potential interviewees: Wolfram sisters, Herb Highum, Lupy Myhro, Donny Hoegh, Bert Boyum, Irene Overland, Roger & Preston Colbenson, Bruce Hovland, Nancy Benson, Dorothy O'Donnell, JoAnne & Rollie Dubbs, Glen Boynton. (Anne noted that she has interviews with Lucille Peterson, Bert Boyum & Donny Hague at depot birthday party and will get copy to Terri to keep in the safety deposit box. Terri will approach Wanda Hanson to see if she'd be interested in conducting the interviews. Other items to consider for the grant are whether we need equipment for the interviews, where they will reside (website and possibly the University of Minnesota's Digital Content Library). Sally will work on the grant application and have a draft for the December meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Jack reported the following balances as of October 31, 2023:

1. Checking (.25%) – \$15,413.67 – Insurance is due on November 10, and Jack received a notice that it is going up 8.5% to \$2,513. Domain names are renewing in November – 4 at \$20 each on Sally's credit card. Sally will get the bill to Jack once she receives it. He has a \$60 donation/book sale that he'll deposit.
2. Money Market (4%) – \$13,947.33
3. CD (12 month@ 4.25%) - \$52,638.40 (matures January 13)

Moved by Nancy, seconded by Sally, to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried.

Terri and Jack will work on year-end financials for the annual report and discuss the income tax requirements. Sally will work with Jack on the summary financial report Jen Hengel had been updating each year.

Winterization of Depot Plumbing - Stephanie Eggert told Jack that she wouldn't need a bathroom for the limited amount of time she'll spend at the chamber office in the depot over the winter, so Jack and Jim O'Donnell disconnected both bathrooms and winterized them and the drinking fountain. The furnace is running with the thermostat set at 58.

Meeting Discussion

1. November Annual Report Newsletter

- a. Year Recap – Terri will summarize finances, projects, items received, and future plans.
- b. Nancy S. has written a story about Ben Niggle for the story about a person of interest in Rushford's history.
- c. Jackie has written a story about the depot, a building of interest in Rushford's history.

2. Community Interactions

- a. Genealogy Class – Michele Ekern will lead a Beginners Family Tree Making workshop using familytree.org. It will be Wednesday, November 15, at Loken's Inn from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Registration is limited to 5 due to the hands-on nature of the class. It's been posted on Facebook and posters have been hung up at Pam's Corner, Rushford Foods, Sterling, Semcac employee lounge, and the R-P school employee lounge. Gordy Elliott, Diane Montgomery and Sally Ryman are registered so far. Anne Spartz will be auditing the class. Sally will bring electric strips for those needing to plug in their devices.

DIVERSITY CLUB – Sally will invite the R-P high school diversity club to meet with us on January 1. We noted in our MNHS grant application that we would reach out to the diversity club for ideas on how to improve RAHS' diversity and inclusion.

Adjournment: Moved by Sally, seconded by Nancy, to adjourn at 7:38 p.m. Motion carried.

Next meeting – December 4, Loken's Inn, 6:00 p.m.