



P.O. Box 463, Burk's Falls, Ontario P0A 1C0
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Heritage Centres
Watt Century Farm House
827 Chetwynd Road
Armour Township

Wiseman's Corner Schoolhouse
112 Midlothian Road
Ryerson Township

MINUTES

Burk's Falls & District Historical Society

Fell Homes, Burk's Falls

Monday, January 16, 2023

Members Present: Diane Brandt – President
Charlene Watt – Secretary
Lorne Main
Jarv Osborne
Nieves Guijarro
Judy Ransome
George Stirling

The Members present constituted a quorum.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.
Diane Brandt in the Chair.

Welcome:

Diane welcomed Members. Diane welcomed our new Ryerson Township representative, Mayor George Stirling.

Regrets: Ryan Baptiste and Jenny Hall.

Delegation:

None

Approval & Amendments of the Minutes of the Last Meeting:

Acceptance and adoption of the November 21, 2022 Meeting Minutes as circulated: **Moved by Jarv Osborne, Seconded by Lorne Main. Carried**

Treasurer's Report:

A verbal Treasurer's / Financial Report was presented by Diane Brandt. Main bank account balance was \$8,244.12 on December 30, 2022. Expenses from November to current include two Net Spectrum automatic withdrawals for November and December in the amount of \$56.44; Cheque #241 in the amount of \$75.00 to the Poppy Trust Fund; Cheque #242 in the amount of \$50.00 to the Santa Claus Parade; Cheque #243 in the amount of \$50.00 to Huntsville Hospice in memory of Alan Caldwell; Cheque #244 in the amount of \$1,512.16 to the Township of Armour for the new laptop; and Cheque #245 in the amount of \$1,804.01 to



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the Framing Place for artifact framing. Main account balance is \$6,333.67 as of January 16, 2023. The lottery account balance remains at \$65.00. Diane will look into a process to accept donations online. **Motion to accept the Treasurer's report and pay the monthly invoices: Moved by Nieves Guijarro, Seconded by George Sterling. Carried**

Committee Reports:

Wiseman's Corner Schoolhouse:

George Stirling presented the written report as submitted by the Township of Ryerson. The work completed at the schoolhouse in 2022 included: repairing a broken window, insulating and filling holes and cracks in the exterior, repairing loose screws in the steel roof, installing an eavestrough over the main door, installing board and baton siding on the west wall and installing the handrail on the basement stairs. Museum in-kind donations for 2022 totalled \$6,086.50 which included \$1,646.93 for hydro, \$203.50 for pest control, \$932.58 for insurance, \$3,189.47 for maintenance and \$114.02 for wages. Members thanked George for the report, complimented the building repairs and are looking forward to reopening the schoolhouse.

Watt Century Farm House:

Diane Brandt updated members on the status of the pending inspection of the stairlift by TSSA. Paul Fowler assessed the furs that were donated and confirmed the descriptions. Paul also donated additional furs. A weekly check of the building is being completed by Diane. The website has been updated to reflect current acquisition information of the farmhouse from Northland Power to the Township of Armour.

Correspondence:

Members reviewed a thank you card from Debbie and Ken Branch on behalf of Betty Caldwell and family acknowledging the memorial donation for Alan Caldwell to Huntsville Hospice.

General Business:

Jarv Osborne spoke to Brian Darnborough regarding the pending donation of CN Rail tools. Diane confirmed that Members are interested in the artifacts; however, we lack the spacing to accommodate them. The red building is to be replaced by the Township of Armour. A timeline has not been confirmed to date. Once the new building is constructed, it will display additional exhibits and donations.

Lorne advised that he received an inquiry about the Bryon family. He advised that the family was the first settlers on Pickerel Lake and were located at the Pickerel Lake Lodge property. Their log house is the oldest building in Armour and was built in 1885. Additional information can be found on page 61 in the Armour Township's "The Invisible Past" publication by Jan Osborne.



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New Business:

Heritage Day 2023:

A verbal report was presented to Members by Charlene Watt. Use of the Watt farm field across from the Watt Farm House is not being granted any longer. Due to the size of the event and parking requirements a new venue is required. Visitors to the Farm House will be impacted due to this change. The list of traveling exhibits from the Archives of Ontario has decreased to five choices and three of them have already been displayed at the farm house. The remaining exhibits did not interest Members. One exhibit was on the War of 1812 and the other exhibit was on George Brown. The Armour Township's budget to support the event for 2023 is \$16,800. Members discussed the success of Heritage Day, a new addition to the day with a classic car show and a preferred venue location. **Motion that the Burk's Falls and District Historical Society members direct the Secretary to contact the Armour Ryerson Burk's Falls Agricultural Society and the Village of Burk's Falls to request use of the fairgrounds, park and arena parking lot as a venue to host the 2023 Heritage Day celebration: Moved by George Sterling, Seconded by Nieves Guijarro. Carried**

Membership Information Changes:

Diane presented to Members the website page detailing our membership and perks. The website information is outdated and inaccurate. The following Members paid their memberships during the discussion: George & Mary Sterling, Nieves Guijarro, Jarv Osborne, Lorne Main and Judy Ransome. We will discuss an increase in the membership fees for 2024 at a future meeting. Charlene will update the website as per the Member's discussion.

Future Meetings:

Lorne's attendance to future meetings may not be consistent; however, continued use of the meeting room at Fell Homes is being granted. Judy Armstrong will monitor. A new meeting location may be required.

Adjournment:

The next meeting will be held on February 20, 2023 at Fell Homes. There being no further business, **Jarv Osborne moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m.**

Recorded by
Charlene Watt, Secretary

Approved by
Diane Brandt, President