

OLIVE BRANCH SCHOOL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Minutes of the meeting of January 9, 2012

Trustees present: Bill Berry, Brad Martin, Dr. James Gay, Cyndie Gerken, Jane Manemann, Brad Martin, Susan Brosey Morgan, John Sipe, Howard Stahl, and Ken Strickland. Other interested parties present: Mr. & Mrs. Elwood Leathley.

Mr. Berry called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM. Mr. Berry corrected the minutes of 10/10/11 to read that Joan Brandt was present.

Jane Manemann moved to approve payment of \$499 for 5,000 OBSPS brochures. The motion was seconded by Cyndie Gerken, and approved by the Board. Thanks were extended to Ken Strickland and other members who had made contributions. The balance in the treasury is currently \$1552. The report will be filed for audit. In reply to Mr. Berry, Dr. Gay reported that two contributions were received after the 12/2 Senior Banquet.

Jane Manemann made a motion to approve Howard Stahl as the replacement for Jim Leathley as an OBSPS Board member. Dr. Gay seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. Howard has been in contact with all Finance Committee members except Mr. and Mrs. Bob Suver. The other members are Bill Scarff, John Sipe, and Carl Gilbert.

Cyndie Gerken reported that possible funding is available from the National Trust Preservation Fund. Under this umbrella, the Hart Family Fund makes \$2500-\$5000 matching grants to small towns. Funds, however, cannot be used for construction, but rather for such expenses as consultation, printing, stationary, and signage. Application must be made through the National Trust Preservation Fund on the new, completely restructured form. Application deadlines are February 1, June 1, September 1, and November 1, but only Forum-level NT member organizations may apply. Membership fees are \$115 annually. Howard Stahl asked if we can get rules for the application process before joining. Cyndie Gerken replied that Nathalie Wright can obtain them, and will assist in applying for an hourly fee. She can help tremendously with contacts. Dr. Gay pointed out that Nathalie believes the NT membership would be of great benefit to the Society. Mr. Sipe pointed out the money must be invested to earn money. Cyndie Gerken moved to join the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The motion was seconded by Susan Brosey Morgan, and passed unanimously. Cyndie reported that an anonymous donor has agreed to pay the \$115 fee.

Mr. Berry stated that he had talked to Bruce Eggleston about the design and price of a thermometer-style sign, indicating the amount of money received for the subject project, to be placed in front of the Olive Branch School. He should have the estimate before the next Board meeting. He further stated that any information about the project can be placed on the TLS web page and on their Facebook page. Information may be sent to Mary Jane at: maryjane.kottmyer@tecumsehlsd.org.

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Cyndie Gerken reported that names, phone numbers, and e-mails of trustees as well as the OBSPS by-laws should be added to the Preserve Olive Branch page on the TLS web site. Also a form for donations, and/or memorials or honorary gifts, similar to that of the Springfield Foundation, needs to be on the web site such that it can be downloaded as a hardcopy. Cyndie will work with Mary Ellen Kottmyer to accomplish this.

Mr. Berry urged the Society to continue to attempt to get an OBSPS article printed in the *New Carlisle News*. Dr. Gay suggested working with Megan Gilbert of the *Springfield News-Sun*. Jane Manemann reminded Trustees not to neglect the Dayton newspaper. Mr. Sipe noted that the large Monday morning spread Tom Stafford writes would be of great benefit to the Society, and Mr. Berry indicated that Tom is willing to do such an article when the time is right. Mr. Sipe also thanked Cyndie Gerken for the beautiful brochure design. This sentiment was echoed by all trustees.

Cyndie reported that Debbie Brandt is willing to amass lists of alumni. Cheryl Leathley has contributed her lists. The alumni book published in 2002 may also be helpful. Mr. Berry noted alumni could be contacted via the TLS website, Facebook, and mailings. Preservation Trust Funds could be used for these expenses, if a grant is awarded. In reply to a question from Mr. Berry, Dr. Gay stated that all yearbooks, since they were initiated in 1953, are in the library.

Cyndie Gerken noted that is important to keep lists of those to whom brochures are given, and to add those names to the OBSPS mailing list. She has also located brochures in the Donnelsville post office.

Dr. Gay noted the importance of presentations to service clubs, and other organizations. He invited Mr. Berry to speak at the next New Carlisle Rotary Club meeting. They will try to make a power point for such presentations. Mr. Berry reported that he had already presented a program to Sertoma. Susan Morgan noted that the Medway Historical Society would also likely be receptive to a program.

Mr. Sipe wanted to be certain that donors received thank you letters which could also be used for tax purposes. This will be discussed with Treasurer Pam Mustovich.

In reply to Howard Stahl, it was reiterated that the Society has 501(c) 3 status.

Mr. Berry adjourned the meeting at 8:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Strickland, Secretary