

**56th MEETING ~ MINUTES
OLIVE TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY
DECEMBER 16, 2008 ~ 7:00 P.M.
11768 POLK STREET ~ HOLLAND, MI 49424**

Members Present: Kit and Sandra Karsten, Debbie Wolters, Kathy Headley, Wayne Vander Zwaag, Glenn Ten Brink and Beverly Jaarsma.

- 1) President, Kit Karsten called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone who came out on such a bitterly cold and snowy night.
- 2) **November financial statements** were distributed. Receipts were \$677.30 from Christmas Home Tour; \$15 DVD sales; \$25 membership fees. Balance in Checking is \$8,038.18. Paid out \$309.45 for ad in Advance from Twp Funding.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 3) **Special Thanks** to members and friends who helped to make our Christmas Home Tour a success. Without the help of each and everyone of you this event could not happen. Thank you too for those who attended the event.
- 4) **Home Tour Reflections** ~ nativity was a big hit; weather played a factor in low attendance; signing in at every home was a distraction; sell tickets at each home was addressed at a home. All in all everything was planned perfectly and went well. We had no problems that needed addressing. Home attendance averaged from 55 to 70 per home. It was difficult to really tell how many went through each home as some tourist did not sign in at each home. We felt it was a very good turn out, considering the weather was snowy.
- 5) **Articles for Winter News Letter** ~ Kit and Sandy and Deb are working on it.
- 6) **Shelves for Museum** ~ The nativities and Christmas items will be taken down on January 6th. Therefore, the shelving work can begin.
- 7) **January 27, 2009 Program** ~ A Social Hour will be held at the Museum at 7:00 p.m. Author, Valerie Van Heest, will sharing of her discoveries of Shipwrecks in Lake Michigan. Her book "ICEBOUND" "The adventures of Young George Sheldon and the SS Michigan" will be available for purchase. Members and friends are urged to attend. Reminders will be sent to members.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 8) **Investment in CD's** ~ Bev Jaarsma reported that we can place \$5,000 in a C.D. at Huntington Bank. This will give us some return on our monies.
- 9) **A Motion** was made by Glenn Ten Brink, supported by Wayne Vander Zwaag to **allow the Treasurer to place \$5,000 in a C.D. for 2-years**, with Huntington Bank. Motion Carried.
- 10) **Technology update** ~ Thanks... to the Wolters we now have a printer, copier for the Society. The township gave us a used laptop computer for which we are thankful as well.
- 11) **Holiday clean-up** ~ January 6th we will take down the displays and stow them away in the attic. Sandy will purchase totes for storing and labeling our items.
- 12) **Museum Tours** ~ Children from the South Olive Chr. School toured the museum this week. They really enjoyed seeing the different nativities from other countries and seeing the older items we have on display.
- 13) **Museum Tours** ~ the museum will be open every Saturday in December from 11 to 3. If you did not have a chance to see the display, during our Home Tour, please take advantage of this opportunity.
- 14) **Election of Trustees** ~ A motion was made by Bev Jaarsma, supported by Wayne Vander Zwaag to re-appoint **Kathy Headley to a 3-year term for Trustee**. Motion Carried.
- 15) **Election of Officers** ~ A motion was made by Wayne Vander Zwaag, supported by Sandy Karsten to re-appoint **Kit Karsten as President, Sandy Karsten as Vice President, Beverly Jaarsma as Secretary/Treasurer; Debbie Wolters as Assistant Secretary/Treasurer for the 2009 term of office**. Motion Carried.
- 16) **Annual Memberships** ~ Reminders will be sent out along with the invitations to the January Social. However, anyone is welcome to sign up before that time. Membership is \$15 per Single; \$25 for a Family of three; and \$35 for a family of four. 2009 Perk donations are available to receive "The Tales of Ottawa Station" and "Paging the Days of Olive" or "Mr. Turkey", along with our Ottawa and Ovens School replicas. Need a Christmas idea.....anyone one of the above would make a great gift.
- 17) **Brainstorm ideas for Old Settler's Picnic/Social for August 2009 ~ from a to z**
 - a. To be held at the Harlem Reformed Church/Activity room.
 - b. To be held either August 15, 22, or when the church will be available.
 - c. The theme will be "blueberries" past and present.

- d. Tour by bus will hit historical markers, farms and homes in the community.
 - e. Opportunity to pick berries
 - f. Have a picking contest
 - g. Tour local farmers and processing facilities.
 - h. Contact local growers for their input: John Baumann, Wayne Kiel, Rick Kiel, Vern Brouwer, and Wayne Kamphuis. We will try to contact all growers in the area. If you know of others, please submit their names to Kit Karsten (875-8036).
 - i. Show history of harvesting berries “old way vs. new way”!
 - j. Baking Contest with “blueberries” in recipe.
 - k. Blueberry pie eating contest – get cheap pies from stores
 - l. Make recipes available for distribution. Book???
 - m. Kids activities – have local crafters – like Bonkema family share their talents and wares.
 - n. Food on the grounds for sale – Ask Harlem Youth to serve for a fund raiser?
 - o. Create a Memory book – for people to write down the tales and history facts.
 - p. Antique Vehicles – tractors – cars – etc.
 - q. Family history boards on display – ask people of the Harlem area to create one for their family.
 - r. Ice Cream – Ask Soft Spot if they are interested.
 - s. Fire Trucks, Rescue vehicle on display
 - t. Ottawa County Parks for a display of area “Green Ways”
 - u. Petting Zoo – Ask Lenore Struer, Bronkema’s, and Hossink’s to bring down their animals.
 - v. School histories – Harlem, Robart, Pigeon Creek, West Crisp and West Olive. Anyone having information on these school, please call and give us a hand.
 - w. Church histories – Harlem, and others in community.
 - x. Barn photo contest – present the idea at the social and have a winner picked and have all the pictures on display at our next Home Christmas Tour event.
 - y. Auction/door prizes???
 - z. And “Z” has a great time!!!!
- 18) Our **next meeting will be January 27th at 7:00 p.m. It will be a social night!**
- 19) The meeting closed at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beverly Jaarsma

Beverly Jaarsma, Secretary
Phone: 616-399-6939