

Billings Museum Committee  
Minutes

October 5, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

Park Centre, 39 Henry Drive

**PRESENT:** Barb Edwards, Dianne Fraser, Sabine Huege, Michael Hunt (Chair), Brad MacKay, Kathy McDonald, Rick Nelson and Mayor Anderson.  
Regrets: Deb Flaxman

**1. Open**

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Michael Hunt.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Motion by Sabine Huege, seconded by Dianne Fraser.

That the agenda for the October 5, 2020 meeting be approved as presented.

Carried

**3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

There was no disclosure of pecuniary interest.

**4. Adoption of the Minutes**

Motion by Sabine Huege, seconded by Brad MacKay

That the minutes of the March 2, 2020 meeting be accepted as presented.

Carried

**5. Treasurer's Report**

Kathy McDonald presented the Treasurer's Report. It was noted that the municipal contribution from the Museum Assistance Program, Empress of Ireland funding of \$15000 would be shown as a 2021 income and that that the Township had been successful in the application for Covid19 Funding in the amount of \$5000. This money has not yet been received.

Motion by Kathy McDonald, seconded by Dianne Fraser

That the Treasurers Report be accepted as presented.

Carried

**6. Curator's Report**

Rick Nelson presented the Curator's Report, as included in the agenda package.

Motion by Brad MacKay, seconded by Sabine Huege

That the Curator's Report be accepted as presented.

Carried

**7. Old Business**

**Preservation/Organization of Artifacts/Storage**

Dianne Fraser and Sabine Huege will start taking inventory after Thanksgiving weekend. This is to identify the location of the stored items.

**Library/Museum Young Canada Works at Building Careers in Heritage Grant Application Update**

The grant has been approved and Darcy Woods started last week. She will be updating the book *How it All Began*.

#### **Empress of Ireland Exhibit Update**

Shipping the exhibit to the Heritage Centre is dependent on Covid19 and whether the Museum of History will have enough staff to package and ship the display here. Rick has contacted Ken Marshall and he has agreed to a copyright agreement so that the museum can display an 8' x 8' picture of the Empress of Ireland for the price of \$250 US. Discussion as to whether or not we could use this to produce promotional material as well.

Motion by Brad McKay, seconded by Sabine Huege

That Rick Nelson contact Mr. Marshall and complete the agreement to allow the Heritage Centre to use the digital image.

Carried

#### **Old Mill 95<sup>th</sup> Celebration**

The 95<sup>th</sup> Celebration was held on August 13, 2020. The event went very well. Steve Paikin attended as well as the Recorder and Expositor. There was a good turnout of local people.

### **8. New Business**

#### **Phone Bill/Security System/Web Cam**

Rick Nelson felt the phone bill was too high and possibly the service could be disconnected for the winter but still receive voice mail. The Security System was down this winter when the renovations were being done but the committee still had to pay the full amount. A new smoke detector has been installed that will alert the security company if smoke is detected. The webcam has been down all year.

Rick is to find out if the security company uses the phone lines to receive information and if the telephone system can be turned off and voice mail still be forwarded.

#### **2020 Reflections**

Dianne stated that the museum has done well considering the pandemic. COVID19 protocols were in place all summer.

#### **Grant Request**

The funding application to COVID 19 Emergency Support Fund for Cultural, Heritage and Sports Organizations has been approved and the museum will be receiving \$5000.

#### **2021 Exhibits**

The Museum Committee is still unsure of what 2021 is going to bring. Plans are in place to put the desk that belonged to Stan Gordon Sr. in the barn and do a township display. The plan is still to bring in the Empress of Ireland display and make some changes to the other displays.

#### **Post Office Museum**

The Post Office Museum was closed this year. If it is open there are plans to expand on the display of tools.

### **Light Up the Old Mill Plaques**

The Museum needs to look for ideas as to how to display the names of donors. The current lighthouse is almost full. Dianne Fraser has asked for suggestions. There is a person willing to donate \$4000 but does not like the current display. The Lighthouse display will remain where it is and the new one could possibly go beside it. The design and details will need to be worked out.

### **Museum Annual Report for Council**

Dianne Fraser and Sabine Huege worked on the draft Annual Report as attached to the agenda. The report was reviewed and a few items were added: 1) Summer student not hired this year, and a 2) Museum Report was submitted to Micheline Baxter from the Ministry of Culture, Heritage and Sports.

Discussion regarding the 2021 budget. A draft was discussed. The 2021 budget will not be included in the report to Council. Dianne Fraser and Kathy McDonald will meet after Thanksgiving weekend.

### **Council Developments**

Councillor Hunt updated the Committee on council developments, the township has submitted an expression of interest for an electric vehicle charging station and a new snowplow has been purchased.

Mayor Anderson advised the group that he is extremely impressed with this committee and commended the committee for opening the museum this year. The majority of the people of Manitoulin are complying with the Covid19 rules.

### **8. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for November 2, 2020 at the Park Centre.

### **9. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. by motion by Dianne Fraser.