



## November Meeting Minutes

Mr. DiCicco led the pledge of allegiance. Mr. Rebmann called roll. Absent with prior notification were Bevan O'Grady and Sarah Matthews. Present were DiCicco, Gooch, Laughlin, and Rebmann.

Mr. Gooch offered the treasurer's report. Total Sturdy Savings Bank account balance: \$3250.54. There were two membership applications since the September meeting. Other deposits included a check from Cold Spring Brewery for the Friends' share of the recent fundraiser proceeds. Other deposits were \$300 contribution from Dennis Township resident Thomas Barry and \$250 from Sturdy bank. Three check expenditures were approved for the following: refreshments for the fundraiser, fee for post office box at Dennisville Post Office (annual) and expenses for technology.

Members also voted to join the Dennisville Historic Homeowners Association as a business member. Mr. Rebmann will complete the application and forward to Mr. Gooch for payment.

Members unanimously accepted the expenditures and report

Board approved September minutes. Mr. Rebmann will forward copy of the minutes to Mr. Laughlin to post on the Friends website.

There were no minutes for October because of the fundraiser.

The board discussed how to increase fund raising at future events. All agreed that a donation box should be made available. Also recommended was a more concerted effort to solicit new memberships at such events. Mr. Rebmann will work on both ideas.

Mr. DiCicco discussed the by-laws, indicating that solicitor Anthony Monzo, who recently assisted Friends of Fishing Creek School House, had reviewed the current draft and felt that it

should be more specific regarding board member duties and other legal questions as the organization grows. Mr. Monzo is donating his time/expertise to this review work.

The board voted to withdraw the current by-laws pending Mr. Monzo's modifications

Under museum activities, Mr. Rebmann announced that the school visit scheduled for November 16 had been postponed, as the teacher was unable to obtain required permissions from the school board. The visit will be rescheduled, probably in early 2018.

Music recoding continues at the museum. Mr. Laughlin recently engineered a session featuring Dennisville residents John and Jan Haigis. This is the third session at the museum. All three have produced CDs by local musicians. The board encouraged the museum to continue with the effort.

Mr. Rebmann indicated that the museum will open for the annual Dennisville Historic Homeowners House Tour on Saturday, December 16. The museum will open early, in order to accommodate the estimated 500-600 visitors expected.

Other business matters temporarily tabled until after the holiday include a planned fundraiser at the Slack Tide Brewery in Clermont, arrangements to acquire donated computers from the Arc, and a rock-painting contest held for children.

The board discussed grants in process. Mr. Rebmann informed members that he has filed for a technology grant through the Cape May County Culture and Heritage and an donation request from Sturdy bank had already been paid. He is currently working on a matching grant from the 1772 Foundation (State of New Jersey).

This grant requires a match from other sources. The board will approach the township committee to seek its financial support for the match. Mr. Rebmann is seeking \$10,000 from the 1772 Foundation for extensive repairs to the exterior of the Old School House Museum.

Mr. Gooch recommended contacting the township for immediate assistance repairing the front steps to the museum especially with the house tour approaching. Mr. DiCicco suggested contacting Ms. Salimbene and the mayor and administrator regarding the matter. That being museum business, Mr. Rebmann will handle it.

Board discussed recent purchases for the museum. As the purchases in question were paid for out of museum budget, no board approval was required. However, Mr. Rebmann sought board input for the 2018 budget request he is preparing.

One particular item, a PA system, drew board members' attention. Mr. Laughlin indicated that the system offered through Staples, the township's contracted vendor, was inadequate to meet

the museum's anticipated needs. Members asked if the township allows for purchases outside of its Staples contract and suggested contacting the local school's Business Administrator concerning the school's purchasing arrangements and whether the Museum could pursue a similar arrangement. Mr. Rebmann will follow up on this.

There being no other business, motion to close the meeting was unanimous.