

PRHS Minutes - January 15, 2020

Location / Time: Emmanuel Center 2 p.m.

Call to Order: Tom Sled, Chair

Members Present: Tom Sled, Larry Cochran, Brian Preston, Diane Haskins, Betty James, Isabelle Schmid, Doug Bond: **Regrets:** Bert Petro

Approval of Previous Minutes: Betty James Moved, Seconded by Doug Bond

Secretaries Report: No secretaries report, since Brian Preston tendered his resignation from the Board of Directors at the end of December. He was there to present the minutes of the December Meeting. Everyone thanked Brian for his service to the executive and was pleased that he remains a member and is eager to help on specific projects.

Treasurers Report: Larry Cochran was present to discuss the tax receipts which PRHS must provide to donors for their generous contributions to the Save the Church Mission. The receipts are ready but because the Diocese is still requiring a new survey of the property, the close of the transaction is pending. Tom Sled obtained a letter from Alex Pierson of the Diocese, dated December 23, 2019, indicating that the close would occur shortly after registration of title. They think this will be the end of February. It was agreed to phone the various donors, explain the delay and indicate the receipts are on the way, before the end of February for 2019 tax purposes, but to understand the situation.

On a related topic, Isabelle Schmid suggested we set up some type of on-going trust account where people who want to donate to the on-going maintenance and up-keep up the building could place their money. Tom mentioned he had spoken to one of the donors about that possibility in the future.

Chair Report on Emmanuel Center: As stated, we are awaiting final word from the Diocese for the close of the transaction. Tom has also started preparing a grant submission from the Davies Foundation. The required funding to assist with renovations to the former church is projected to be \$82,000. The submission is not finalized and submitted yet, pending agreement by the Executive. Everyone agreed with the submission. It closes the end of January, so time is critical.

Raffle Update: Tom read the letter he sent to the winner of the raffle, Russel and Pat Hull of Smiths Falls.

Report on the Project to Build the Passenger Shelter: Diane provided details on the status of the project. PRHS has received Park Canada approval, now the Township is to provide a building

permit for the shelter based on plans prepared and stamped by a certified draftsman. Diane is contacting Eastern Engineering in Brockville to prepare the drawings, following PRHS specifications. The cost may be as much as \$600.00. Diane has agreed to pay for these drawings. Motion was made by Diane, Seconded by Isabelle.

Update on the Article to OHS: Brian reported on the article concerning Admiral Kingsmill for the Ontario Heritage Society (OHS) Quarterly Newsletter. It will be appearing in the Spring Edition and will be distributed all over Ontario. This will highlight PRHS's work on the celebration for the first admiral of the Canadian Navy here in Portland last summer.

Letters from Township: Storage of boats and the letter from Mike Dwyer, concerning storage requirements, was discussed. Tom read the letter and all agreed that both short term storage and long term storage are a requirement for PRHS. Tom had included 600 square feet being needed ASAP. Also, a letter from Mike Dwyer concerning "Letters" from the former Rideau Centennial Public School was discussed. Tom read the letter he sent to the Township, requesting the Public School "Letters" for PRHS and suggesting the mural should be saved, but we did not have facilities to store it. Suggested it should be moved to Kin Park or to the Community Hall.

Community Hall Initiative: Diane spoke about the Community Hall and its history as a Tabernacle. She feels we should get a plaque for the Hall and mount it on the exterior of the building. All agreed. We are meeting with the Community Enhancement Committee (CEC) on February 14th and Diane will highlight the Community Hall Building and Tom will present the information on the Passenger Shelter Project.

Portland Homes Initiative: Diane suggested small individual plaques on all the homes in Portland, indicating the date when they were built.

Planned Meetings: Tom is meeting with Liz Church of the Portland Improvement Committee (PIC) later in January. He will brief her on our various projects and our vision of the future, as it relates to the PIC.

2020 AGM: Discussion of the next AGM followed and several suggestions for guest speakers were discussed, such as John Watt. He has a large collection of post cards which could be presented. Tom suggested using the Emmanuel Center as an Opening Night for the former church and inviting the Westport Choir to perform, if the building is finally purchased and ready for the public at that time. All agreed this was a wonderful idea. The choir is composed of 45 singers with musical accompaniment. The AGM would be held at the end of April or early May, if all goes well.

Interested Parties: Doug Bond commented on a letter he had received and forwarded to the Chair, from California. Details on the letter attached. (Doug, could you send your e-mail again?)

Follow Up with Rideau Lakes Township: Brian had received a letter from Leila Stafford, and forwarded it to Tom, advising PRHS of the work of Augus Brown who is securing money from various foundations for the Township. Tom had asked Brian to send the PRHS Vision for the Emmanuel Center to Leila. No word on developments from Leila Stafford. (Tom to follow-up.)

Next meeting set for Wednesday, February 19th, at 2:00 p.m. at the Emmanuel Center.

Meeting was adjourned 4:15 p.m.