

Minutes of The Windsor-Severance Historical Society March 22, 2021

The Windsor-Severance Historical Society met via Telephone Conference Call on Monday, March 22 at 10:00 a.m. In attendance were Kristie Melendez, Gloria Gaslin, Dan Meyers, Laura Browarny, Ruth Brunner and Judy Firestien.

Call to Order - Kristie Melendez called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Monthly Reports/Approvals

February Minutes - The Minutes from the previous meeting on February 22, 2021 were reviewed. Gloria moved and Dan seconded the minutes be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Elaine was not able to attend but had sent a report on funds via email. The balance in the checking account is \$2,082.33, the balance in the savings account is \$20,192.71, and the balance of the CD is \$3,307.78.

Membership Status/Update – Sue had reported Sara Everitt had joined as a family membership and had also made a \$500 donation. This may not be reflected yet in the numbers from Elaine.

Old Business

Preserving and Indexing Video Update from Town – Laura reported Caitlin has been getting everything sorted out so that all the videos that exist are online and she is creating a comprehensive list. There are still plans to transcribe the videos, but more volunteers may be needed. All the videos are up on YouTube and ready to be transcribed. They found that the Town network had about 50 videos that had been collected some time ago. Many of these are available to put up on YouTube. Some of these videos are being aired on the Town tv station when there is space. Laura would send language to Kristi regarding volunteering to do transcription and this could be added to the WSHS website and Facebook page. There may be more seasonal museum staff available to help over the summer with transcribing. There will be quite the library available! Everything will “live” on YouTube and can be tagged so it is searchable.

WSHS Video for Promotion – Preserving with Purpose – Claire Richardson – The Society has been talking about creating a video that (1) tells folks what the WSHS is – who we are, what our mission is, (2) would be used to encourage people to join, and (3) would be used to share with folks the videos and oral histories and explain how folks can access those videos. Kristie has plans to meet with Claire Richardson of Preserving with Purpose to chat about what the Society is looking for in a video. The Society could contract with them and pay them to do a video or series of videos. Kristie hoped to have a proposal by the next meeting. Thanks to Dan for making the introduction.

The Society might partner with Claire on a future project to help people preserve their family history. There would be a charge, but maybe a percentage could come to the WSHS. Claire liked this idea and had already started some of this with other organizations. This could be a side committee and anyone who is interested could join Kristie at the upcoming meeting with Claire.

Video Thank You Event for Promotion – A “Video Appreciation Night” had been suggested by Ruth Brunner. This item is kept on the agenda as a place holder as we wait on timing to be able to do this event, possibly at the Art and Heritage Center. Laura reported that by summer, they hope to be generally back to business as usual, with some modifications. This might work best as an end of summer/start of fall event. Kristie asked that Laura take a look at dates that are available and give some possible dates and times at the next meeting.

April-May Annual Membership Drive – Kristie will send a membership drive letter later this week for review by the Board. The letters would go out late April/Early May and this would be a good opportunity to add the date for the upcoming fall event; making this the first event of 2021. Annual membership will now go from June to July. Kristie will also provide cost information for the mailing.

Kristie will make contact with Cheryl Glanz of the Northern Colorado Chapter of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia (AHSGR) after meeting with Claire. There might be a possibility of AHSGR doing something alongside with the Society.

Severance Updates – Dan will reach out again to Nick Wharton, Town Manager, for ideas on how the Town would like to be involved with the Society. The Assistant Town Manager is planning a Corn Hole Tournament on May 15 at the new community park off Road 23, bands are being hired for Severance Days and a summer concert series is being planned for the park also. There might be possibilities for WSHS having a table at some of these events. Best of luck to Kristie as she opens a new restaurant in Severance – Vecinos Mexican Grill and Cantina.

New Business

Video Affiliation with Preserving with Purpose – Discussed above.

New Members – Sara Everitt discussed above.

Von Trotha-Firestien Historic Farm Opportunity- Kristie asked Judy to share her thoughts and ideas on a possible project. Judy shared her family farm was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2009. They have had a few events and have tried to do some educational things with the farm and would like to get back to doing more of this. She has built a new house on the farm property. Her old historic house, which was her grandparents, was built in 1926, and they would like to turn the house into sort of an educational, heritage center. She has history of her farm and the Bracewell area that could be displayed. They have also done several open farm events and the Windsor Museum and WSHS participated by having a table along with other organizations. Judy was not sure what this looked like but wanted to let the Society know what they were thinking and see if there was some way to partner with WSHS. Judy had also provided the same information to Northern Colorado AHSGR and invited them also to have some sort of physical presence along with displays, membership and book sales, etc. She asked the Society to give this some thought. Laura offered to provide tips on working with the State Historical Fund.

Kristie thought this was very exciting and a great way that these groups could all work together and make something really good. She suggested a committee of Kristie, Laura, Cheryl and Judy get together to have a side meeting. Judy would send out some possible dates to meet. Kristie thanked Judy for the opportunity. Ruth offered to do a video of the house.

Footprints in the Sugar – Laura confirmed that they already had the book. Gloria offered to go ahead and provide a second copy as a donation from AHSGR that could be used in a different location. Gloria thanked everyone for their contributions to the Society as she is not able to get out as much right now. Kristie thanked Gloria for all her contributions!

Next Meeting

The next meeting in April will be a teleconference call on Monday, April 26, 2021. The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Judy Firestien, Secretary