**Historical Society**

Meeting Minutes Tuesday, February 23, 2016, 7pm – 8pm

**Meeting Location:** Walkersville Town Hall, 21 West Frederick Street, Walkersville, MD

**Attendees:** Florence Schell, Marianne Urban, Bob Hellmoth, Leah Fleming, Ray Soderberg, Joel Herman, George Evans, Chris Leins, Bonnie Leins

**Old Business**

**The History of Walkersville on Display** *(formally named, “The Gallery Walk”*

* Homewood Village at Crumland Farm: Bonnie has not had the time to visit Homewood and discuss the event with the facilities office.
* Bonnie suggested we do the display for the high-school students. She felt this could encourage our youth to take an interest in town history with the possibility to increases membership in the society. Florence did not think this was a good idea. She explained that kids are busy with school and extracurricular activities. The other members thought it may bea good way to demonstrate town history to our youth. We will vote on this project at the March meeting.

**Oral History Project**

* Bonnie purchased an external hard-drive and downloaded the 20 hours of the oral history videos that was produced in 2015.
* Bonnie will drop off Linda Murray’s large thumb drive that holds the full 20 hours of oral interviews, to the library.
* Bonnie expressed her disappointment that no one from the Walkersville Library attended the Gallery Walk in November. She personally invited the Head Librarian, Robin Bowers, just days before the event. Charlie Nicodemus posted event flyers in the library.
* Florence was disappointed with her oral history portion on the final DVD that the library youth group edited and created.
* Florence would like a DVD of her one-hour interview. Bonnie will provide Florence the external hard drive, to copy her interview to a blank DVD.
* Leah asked if a typed transcript was produced. Florence said, “I did not type a transcript”. This project was managed by Charlie, Katheryn, and Florence. We will ask Charlie and Kathryn if they know of a typed transcript. Leah offered to assist other members to review the 20-hours of tape and create a typed transcript.

**Potential Events for Club Members**

* George has made three attempts to contact the property owners, to obtain permission for access to the graveyard from their property. George will try one more time to make contact.

**Woodsboro Walkersville Times**

* Bonnie submitted an article in January and Charlie submitted an article in February.
* Ray published an article on behalf of his new organization, “The Frederick & Pennsylvania Line Railroad Museum”, in the February 2016 Woodsboro Walkersville Times.

**Treasurer Report & 2015 Taxes**

* Susie was not present for the meeting. Bonnie provided the balance from the 12/31/2015 statement.
* Balance of Checking Account: $3,299.79
* Bonnie met with Suzie and prepared the 2015 year-end financial statements.
* Bonnie submitted the financial forms to Lenny Thompson, esquire, to prepare and file the 2015 Federal Taxes.
* Bonnie asked Joel if he had the 2016 Maryland Property Tax forms that are mailed to his home for preparation. Joel stated, he had not received any such document. Bonnie will contact the Maryland Tax and Assessment Office, to obtain the required forms. Bonnie will complete the forms and mail to the Maryland Tax Office.
* Annual dues for 2016: $20

Suzie was not at the meeting, therefore receipts could not be issued.

* Dues will be collected at the March meeting.

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**New Business**

**Frederick & Pennsylvania Line Railroad Museum, Inc**

* Ray Soderberg expressed interest in joining the society, along with his business partner, Mike O’Connor.
* Ray provided an interesting presentation about the newly formed organization.
* For more information about the museum, please visit their website: www.fplmuseum.org.

**Carriage Barn**

* January 2016, Bonnie and Joel met with the property owner, Mary Preikszas. Mary is interested in renovating the carriage barn, to bring it back to its original glory. Mary offer to let the historical society use the 1st floor for functions. Joel wanted to enter an agreement, where the society would assist with overseeing the renovations, as Mary lives out of state. In return, formal written agreement that the historical society would receive the deed to the carriage barn, at a future date. Mary sent an e-mail to the society that she was not interested in deeding the property to the society. However, we could use the 1st floor for functions and we would need to carry the insurance. Joel requested Bonnie send Mary a reply e-mail thanking her for her time but presently, the historical society is not interested in her offer.

**Events 2016:**

* Bonnie suggested a history game tent. Joel and George operated the 2013 trivia tent, during Walkersville’s Day. They said the questions were too hard.
* Bob suggested we create a walking brochure that highlights different structures in the historic district. Bonnie suggested we place markers at the sites that describe the history. We will need to obtain permission from the property owners to place the markers on their property. Florence felt this was not a good idea, as homes throughout the town would have yard sale items and may block access to the markers. The other members thought the idea was good. We will vote on this activity at the March meeting.
* Bob suggested we hold mini presentations during the meeting time, to share learned history.
* Bob suggested we begin a shared library. He brought a book about Hobo, Maury Graham. Joel asked to read the book.
* Please bring any item that you would like to share with the group.
* Bob would like to do a presentation about the life of Hobos in the Walkersville area. Bob is willing to dress in costume.
* Bonnie suggested we make this separate from the meetings. Bonnie will contact several locations to reserve space for the function. We could advertise the event, to increase public attendance. We will discuss this at March meeting.
* Bob suggested we present mini presentations to other organizations in the area. Everyone agreed.
* Suggestions: Glade Valley Lions Club, Walkersville Economic Committee, Frederick Chapter DAR, Glade Valley Homemakers, Frederick County Historical Societies.
* Bonnie requested we think of various topics and presentation formats. We will discuss this at the March meeting.

**Walkersville Southern Railroad Train Museum**

* The Bunny Train will operate in March.
* This year train rides will operate, to take passengers north towards Woodsboro.
* The steam train will operate May 21-22, 28-30, and June 4-5.
* Please see the website for more information: www.wsrr.org

**Monocacy Archeological Society**

* A survey of land area will take place, based on aerial photos. This area may be a possible location of the Monocacy Meeting House cemetery.
* George displayed Native American spearheads that belongs to Marianne’s mother. He shared his knowledge and we learned several of the spearheads were possibly older than 2,000 years. We also learned facts about the spearhead’s composition.
* Please see the website for more information: www.digfrederick.com

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**Officers for 2016**

* Did not vote for officers, as three historical society members were not present. We will hold the vote in March.
* Open Officer Positions

 President: Bonnie Leins (current) Treasurer: Susie Clark (current) Secretary: Chris Leins (current)

**Wrap-Up**

* Discuss possible locations for monthly meetings.

Churches, Schools ($), Walker House ($), Building at corner of Maple and Penn ($), Town Hall, Red Cross Building

* Bonnie will contact Town Hall
* Leah will contact the Red Cross Building
* Meeting location for March 29, 2016: To be determined.

Bonnie will find a location to hold the meeting and will update the members and the FACEBOOK Page.

We welcome new members, Leah Fleming, Bob Hellmoth, Ray Soderberg, and Mike O’Connor. We look forward to new and exciting activities.

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