

Washington Island Historical Archives Committee  
Town of Washington  
Washington Island,  
Wisconsin 54246

The Friday, November 6, 2015 meeting of the Washington Island Historical Archives Committee was called to order by Chairman Richard Purinton at 3:54 PM in the Rutledge Room.

Present were Kirby Foss, Jewel Lee Grandy, Eric Greenfeldt, Charlotte Hansen, Karen Jess, Merrill Lundberg, Richard Purinton, Connie Sena and Jeanette Young. The Chairman welcomed our new member, Karen Jess, and said that her selection as a member of the Archives Committee has now been approved by the Town Board. He also noted that Archivist Janet Berggren had hoped to be present. Janet has been preparing to hand off her work to her successor and wants to be back in the Archives office as soon as she can, as she recovers from her stroke a few days ago.

Approval of Minutes

Without objection the minutes of the meeting of September 22, 2015, as previously sent to members of the Archives Committee, were approved.

Archivist Position

The Chairman excused Kirby Foss and Jewel Lee Grandy from the meeting as we discussed the candidates for the Archivist position, because two of the applicants for the position are close family members. Upon motion by Eric Greenfeldt, seconded by Jewel Lee Grandy, and a roll call vote, the Committee moved to an Executive Session and Kirby and Julie left the meeting.

Following discussion, upon motion by Karen Jess, seconded by Connie Sena, and a roll call vote, the Committee returned to an Open Session. Upon motion by Charlotte Hansen, seconded by Connie Sena, the Committee members present unanimously agreed to recommend to the Town Board that Steve Reiss be appointed as the next Island Archivist. Kirby and Julie then rejoined the meeting. Dick called Steve to inform him of his selection and Dick reported to the Committee that Steve had accepted the job.

Dick will submit Steve's name to the Town Board and inform the other applicants of our decision. The new Archivist will begin working in December and Janet will work with him as her health permits. Compensation for the new Archivist will be \$16 per hour, up to 14 hours per week. Janet may continue to help with articles for the Observer.

Members of the Committee were very pleased with the number and quality of the applicants for the Archivist position. Dick noted that he would be happy to work with

any of them. Kirby's daughter, Lydia, was a strong second choice. Julie Anderson expressed some interest in serving as a volunteer and we will follow up with that.

#### Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented a written report. A copy of the report is attached to the minutes. Expenses to date are \$13,184.81, receipts are \$17,608.94 and the checking account balance is \$31,064.13.

#### Budget for 2016

We may need to buy some updated software next year and perhaps some equipment. We will budget \$1,000 for these. We are budgeting \$11,648 for the Archivist, plus FICA. It has been brought to our attention that Janet has been accumulating more than 900 hours per year for each of the past several years and a pension contribution will be required. There may be a penalty. We do not know the exact amounts or which year these costs will be incurred. We are budgeting \$3,000 for these for 2016. With these changes the budget for 2016 comes to a total of \$20,350. With these changes, upon motion by Eric Greenfeldt, seconded by Charlotte Hansen, the proposed budget was approved.

#### Program Ideas for 2016

Will Craig will probably present another program about Island land history next year. At some point in the future Kathy Bennett may have a program about Effie Lobdell.

#### Committee Member Comments

Eric said that the Wisconsin State Historical Society has a mini-grant program that could possibly be a source of some funds in the future, but committees of a town board are not eligible for this program. He suggested that we explore next year the possibility of a friends organization that might be eligible and could engage in raising funds for the Archives program. Dick observed that there might be other grant making organizations that a friends organization might solicit.

Dick noted that there has been some confusion about the Committee's role in keeping records for the Town. The Archivist updates the cemetery records, but for other records the Town office is the repository and the Archives office has only a supplementary role.

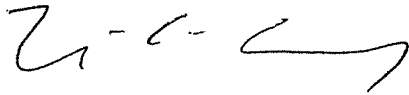
#### Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Archives Committee will take place late in January, and we expect to meet with the new Archivist at that time. **[Note: Following the meeting it was confirmed that the tentative date for the meeting is Tuesday, January 26, 2016, at 4:00 PM in the Rutledge Room.]**

Adjournment

Upon motion by Eric Greenfeldt, seconded by Jeanie Young, the meeting was adjourned at 5:49 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Merrill C. Lundberg', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Merrill C.Lundberg, Secretary