

## **Minutes from Lebanon Historical Society**

**Date/Time:** 9 September 2021 at 7 PM

**Location:** Mermaid Inn

**Persons present:** (note several persons either renewed or became new members this evening)

Ruby St. Martin

Harriet Church

Jean McKelvey (joined)

Terry Weil

Al Gerdes (renewed membership)

Laurie Phillips

Len Adams

Mark Godwin

Rebecca Swenson-Hutchinson (joined)

Elaine Stiegert (joined)

Betty Willyard (joined)

Ron Trame

Tina Lombardo

Bill Eckert

Greg Peterson

John Owings

David Porter

Janet Eckert

Margaret Godwin

Peggy Gerdes

George Fero (on Zoom)

Marie Fero (on Zoom)

Meeting called to order by President Mark Godwin at 7:01PM

**Minutes** from last meeting not available as Michelle Hellstern, Sec, is not able to attend due to working.

Motion made, seconded, and approved to defer to next month

Peggy Gerdes will record minutes this evening in her absence.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

General fund: \$25,650.98

Trolley fund: \$709.65

\$49 was received through shirt fund and per discussion will be put into the general fund.

Check received from the city of Lebanon for \$69.98 to be deposited (meter).

Motion was made, seconded, and approved with no objections to accept the treasurer's report

**Correspondence:**

Thank you note received from Kerri Christ for donation of \$200 for lights to be placed on the Mermaid Inn for upcoming Victorian Days in November.

**Old Business:**

Mermaid Inn report:

Len reports that he has been corresponding with Becca (member) about getting together to see how to set up self-guided tours through the house and other changes to enhance the history.

Notes that he received a bill for water and sewage in the amount of around \$180 that is higher than the normal of the \$30 range. He did talk with the garden club president, Johnathon Svoboda, noting that there had been little to no watering this past summer that would account for the elevation in the bill. Also noted that last year the pump was repaired/replaced. Further investigation with the city to determine cause of elevated bill as no leaks can be located within the house.

Pending projects – to get rid of bees in an area, general clean up, repair of wallpaper that has come loose. New sign is up outside.

There have been no recent tours.

Trolley report:

Still awaiting doors from gentleman who has volunteered to complete them. In the meantime, plan is to seal the entrances with plexiglass that will keep out the weather/animals but allow for viewing into the trolley.

Upcoming Holidays:

Note that usually the Mermaid Inn is open for tours during the fall festival and Victorian Holiday celebration. Fall Festival - Len has volunteered to be at the Mermaid Inn, Victorian Holidays on 19 and 20 Nov. Request from members to help with the tours and greeting. Jean McKelvey has volunteered at this time.

State Senators, Christopher Belt and Tonya Greenwood, visited the Mermaid Inn in July along with two members of the society to discuss projects and plans to work with other organizations in the town.

### **New Business:**

A motion was made by Bill Eckert on proposing that per Article 18 (later clarified to be Article 8) of the constitution to eliminate all the bylaws of the organization. Motion was seconded by Gregg Peterson.

### **Article VIII**

This Constitution shall be amended by a two-thirds vote, or By-Laws may be changed or adopted by a majority of the members present at a general meeting. All members shall be notified one month before the meeting at which the vote is taken.

Extensive discussion occurred including but not limited to the following topics:

- the legality of this action and possible litigation
  - status of the 501(c) (3) with treasurer noting there are cancelled checks to show it was completed
  - discussion of the Advertiser building noting that the building improperly accepted by the president in accordance to the bylaws as no member vote was taken to accept and as a result deed was returned to Harriet Church
  - it is noted that the executive board did meet in July and discussed about the return of the Advertiser building noting it was not accepted by the general membership as outlined in the bylaws but clarified that according to the bylaws it is permitted for executive meetings to be called as needed.
  - group of society members known as the "Friends of Harriet Church", are requesting new leadership and resignation of the current board members. The group feels the current officers have been derelict in their duties along with other concerns.
- Length of time of the discussion was over 2 hours

Again, noted the following motion on the floor: Under the constitution per Article 8 to eliminate all bylaws of the Lebanon Historical Society.

President Mark Godwin stated that due to the serious matter he felt all members of the society should be notified and a vote to be taken at the next scheduled meeting in 30 days. Notes that this is part of the bylaws. He declined to call for a vote at this time. Vice President also declined to call for a vote at this time based on the bylaw. Bill Eckert then stated as members a call for the vote could be made. A verbal roll call was made by the recording member to those present at the meeting (see Appendix for vote results). Results 13 yes and 6 no votes. Motion passed to eliminate bylaws.

A motion was made by Bill Eckert for purpose to discharge all officers upon resolution and to elect a president and secretary pro tem until next general election. Motion seconded by Greg Peterson. A verbal roll call vote was conducted by the recording member to those present at the meeting (see Appendix for vote results). Results 14 yes and 7 no votes. Note 2 votes were allowed from members per zoom. Motion passed to discharge the current officers.

A motion was made to elect Gregg Peterson as president pro tem. Passed as no other nominees and general verbal vote.

A motion was made to elect Tina Lombardo as secretary pro tem, Passed as no other nominees and general verbal vote.

Noted that all officers will turn over their keys to the new officers, all property of the Lebanon Historical Society to be returned to the society, no purchases may be made at this time until new signatures approved at the bank,

Al Gerdes wishes it to be recorded his objection that both motions are fraudulent under Article 8 under the constitution. He noted that the meeting with this intent was never announced to the general membership. It was stated by the "Friends of Harriet Church" that the meeting was mentioned on the social media Facebook of "Save the Historic Advertiser and Museum"

Per the note they are referring to is 4 September 2021 with the following post by Greg Peterson:

Reminder: This Thursday is the regular meeting of the Lebanon Historical Society at the Mermaid house.

This is an important meeting. Please make plans to attend.  
Details will follow

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Peggy Gerdes, recording member

## Appendix Vote results

Results of roll call vote	eliminate bylaws	discharge officers
Ruby St. Martin	left meeting early	
Harriet Church	yes	yes
Jean McKelvey (joined)	yes	yes
Terry Weil	yes	yes
Al Gerdes (renewed membership)	no	no
Laurie Phillips	yes	yes
Len Adams	no	no
Mark Godwin	no	no
Rebecca Swenson-Hutchinson (joined)	yes	yes
Elaine Stiegert (joined)	yes	yes
Betty Willyard (joined)	yes	yes
Ron Trame	no	no
Tina Lombardo	yes	yes
Bill Eckert	yes	yes
Greg Peterson	yes	yes
John Owings	yes	yes
David Porter	yes	no
Janet Eckert	yes	yes
Margaret Godwin	no	present
Peggy Gerdes	no	no
George Fero (on zoom)		yes
Marie Fero		yes