

Minutes of the Byron Historical Meeting
April 15, 2024

Please Note: These minutes are not yet approved and are subject to change.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by President Maureen Betz. Board Members in attendance: Jackie Hansen, Maureen Betz, Gloria Sampson and Linda Sampson Vollmer. Absent: Nancy More.

Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Bob Simon, seconded by Cheryl Meyer. Motion carried.

March 18, 2024 Minutes: Motion to approve the March 18, 2024 minutes was made by Joyce Kindschuh, seconded by Cindy Baier Boelk. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: A bill was turned in for refreshments. A donation was received in Jeanne Bird Culver's memory. Gloria summarized the treasurer's report as follows: Checking: \$6,373.72, CD: \$10,600.96 and Petty Cash: \$94.64 for a total of \$17,069.32. Income from March 19 - April 15, 2024: Calendars: \$22.00; Memberships: \$260.00; and Donations: \$400 for a total of \$682.00. Expenses from March 19 - April 15, 2024: AT&T: \$64.20, USPS: \$68.00, Staples: \$89.48, Norton: \$137.14 and Kelley Creamery: \$100.00 for a total of \$458.82. Motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Jackie Hansen, seconded by Linda Sampson Vollmer. Motion carried.

Erv Kraft Memorial Fund: It was decided that a plaque will be purchased in memory of Erv. It will list all current and future centennial and sesquicentennial farms in the township. The remaining funds will be applied to a scholarship for a student pursuing a career in agriculture.

Ed Kelroy Memorial Fund: It was decided that BHS will sponsor an essay contest for school students to write about the importance of our veterans. This would take place in the fall and winners announced at our November 9 Open House and Veteran's Day salute.

Elections: Three names were presented for nomination for two-year terms on the BHS board of directors: Gloria Sampson, Linda Sampson Vollmer and Owen Stoppleworth. As there were no additional nominations from the floor, Jan Guell made a motion to close the nominations and Tom Kelroy seconded the motion. This was followed by a unanimous vote in favor of the slate of candidates.

Memberships: Those wishing to join or renew their membership were asked to do so after the meeting.

Calendars: The membership chose 4-H Clubs as the 2025 calendar theme and the 2026 calendar theme will be Byron Families Through the Generations. The latter will feature multi-generation photos and stories. The theme will coincide with the 250th anniversary celebration of our nation.

Wittman Sign: There was no update on repair of the sign on the south side of Byron village. Cindy Baier Boelk will continue to check with the Wittman EAA chapter on the progress. Bob Simon

mentioned that when he and John Muentner transported school students to the EAA recently, they paused by the Wittman sign to share the story of our world-famous aviator.

Newsletter: The Byron Newsletter will be printed soon. In the past BHS has paid half of the cost. Dave Vollmer made a motion and Joyce Kindschuh seconded the motion to continue this. The estimated cost for our portion will be \$400.

History at Home Program: On May 9, 2024 Wayne King will give a presentation at the FdL Library entitled Bringing Heroes Home, the journey of Fond du Lac County fallen military from overseas to their final resting place. One of those featured in Wayne's talk is Byron's Lt. Lester Dyer, who was killed in action on Iwo Jima in World War II.

Guest Speakers and Events: May 27 is the Memorial Day Program. Eleanor Rhodes, a Lomira High School student, will be the keynote speaker. Eleanor was this year's second runner-up in the American Legion State Oratorical contest. On **June 1** BHS will partner with the Lomira, Theresa and Slinger Historical Societies to promote the section of the Yellowstone Trail running from Slinger through Byron. Car clubs (vintage and modern) will be invited to travel along the route and stop at historic sites along the way, including Yellowstone Trail exhibits at the Town Hall. 9 am to 3 pm.

June 17 - Antiques Appraisal Night with Owen and Sam Stoppleworth.

TBD - Former Town of Byron resident Mark Hefter sharing his experiences during his years in New Guinea; Christopher Lehner presenting a history of the Milwaukee Road railroad in Byron and neighboring communities.

In Memoriam: Alma Cowles Grace had lived in the township at one time. Linda Sampson Vollmer shared memories of her cousin. Jeanne Bird Culver grew up in the Town of Byron. She was a member of the Byron Historical Society and will be greatly missed. Arlene Costello shared some memories of Dick Towne who we memorialized last month. Francis Ferguson's son Tom just passed. All these people will be missed greatly.

Other Agenda Items: Linda had Yellowstone Trail booklets which could be taken home to read and returned if possible. Maureen announced that Joyce Kindschuh will be celebrating her 94th birthday on Tuesday April 16, 2024.

Next Meeting: May 20, 2024

Adjournment: Motion was made by Bob Simon to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Mary Mischo. Motion carried.

After the meeting we all enjoyed a game of Byron Jeopardy. We give a big thank you to Gary More for keeping score and to Maureen for setting up all the categories.

Respectfully Submitted By: Jackie Hansen, Secretary