**Meeting Minutes**

**South Amherst Historical Society**

Date: January 16, 2025

**CALL to Order:** President**,** Bill Jones

**Time**: 6:10pm

**Welcome message:** All meetings are recorded. We conduct our meetings in a respectful manner, giving each their turn to fully speak, once recognized by the chair. We encourage participation and friendship inside and outside of our meetings and events.

**Purpose of meeting:** Regular Monthly Society Meeting

**Roll Call**:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Member** | **Position** | **Present** | **Absent** |  | **Member** | **Position** | **Present** | **Absent** |
| William Jones | President | X |  |  | Dennis Burdue | Member |  | X |
| VACANT | Vice President |  |  |  | Larry Jones | Member | X |  |
| William Jones | Treasurer | X |  |  | Mandy DeWitt | Member | X |  |
| Jen Denes | Secretary | X |  |  | David DeWitt | Member | X |  |
| Teri Lacock | Board Member | X |  |  | Tara Dewitt | Visitor |  | X\* |
| Trish Hembree | Board Member | X |  |  | Sarah Schmitz | Member |  | X\* |
| Lynn Schmitz | Board Member | X |  |  | Sue Paller | Member | X |  |
| VACANT | Board Member |  |  |  | Cindy Kilgore | Member |  | X\* |
| Claude Griffith | Board Member | X |  |  | Pat Baier | Member |  | X\* |
| Peggy Nesbit | Member |  | X\* |  | Patty Baier | Member |  | X\* |
| Dan Bozicevich | Member |  | X\* |  | Nicole Hembree | Visitor |  |  |

X\*excused

**Secretary Updates** –Secretary, Jen Denes

**Minutes for December meeting** minutes were emailed out to the membership by Jen Denes

Copies of the SAHS meeting minutes are available upon request. Lynn Schmitz made a motion to Accept, none opposed

**Financial Business** – Treasurer, Bill Jones

* The Treasurer report for December 2024 was discussed.

Copies of SAHS Financials are made available upon request by members.

Motion to accept by Sue Paller, none opposed.

* Society Credit Card update:

The South Amherst Historical Society opened a Credit Card for Historical use only

**Business Meeting**

* **Obituaries**

**Michael Lalonde**

Born October 14th, 1971- Died December 28th,2024, a South Amherst graduate class of 1071, grew up in South Amherst before moving to Vermilion in 1981. Michael had a deep passion for cars which translated into his career where he served as a mechanic for many years including 22 years with the Amherst Street Department, Michael served in the United States Army during Vietnam War and was a member of the Am Vets post #22 in Vermilion, Ohio.

* **Fall Fest (All)**

Need to book a Caterer ASAP by February meeting will have a lock on a caterer.

Everything else is booked, the Hall (Oct. 4th), and DJ.

Need to meet about Tickets, decorations

* **Donations (Larry and Teri)**

The Village of South Amherst donated a Centennial flag and other small items, which need to be cataloged and stored in the storage unit.

* **FLDS involvement and interaction discussion (Bill)**

The South Amherst Historical Society is looking to get more involved with the Firelands Local School District.

* **Victory Bell (Larry, Bill, Lynn)**

The Bell from the front bell tower of the Old South Amherst High School was placed on the Athletic Field at the Firelands Stadium.

Larry Jones had presented an idea for the Society contributing to the Victory Bell project that was turned down at their meeting. The idea was taken to the school board and maintenaance department, as well as Mr Wiley and Trevor for approval. Once approved, the plaque was cut and gifted to the school.

**“Victory Bell”**

American Bell Foundry

Northville, Michigan

1910-Bell Installed In Tower Of The South Amherst High School.

2023-Ensuring The Bell Does Not Remain Silent, Trevor Wiley Removed It From The Tower, And Rehomed It At The Firelands Athletic Field. The Victory Bell Will Be Ringing New Memories Into The Minds Of The Students, Faculty And Fans For Many Years To Come.

- Written by Lynn Schmitz

The goal was to ensure the future knows where the bell came from and this history behind it.

* **Firelands Hall of Fame (All)**

Nominations are submitted every year

The Historical Society is looking to submit at least one nominee per year

The committee looks at each nomination, what they have accomplished not only in school, and community, but beyond

All nominations will be active for year for 5 years.

**Motion to Approve Society collaboration with the Firelands Local School District.**

**Motion was made by Jen Denes. Passed by unanimous vote.**

* **Community Involvement (All)**

The South Amherst Historical Society is looking for ways to educate the community of South Amherst about history and preserve village hitory into the future. The S. A. Historical Society wants to enhance the community’s pride and identity through awareness of its history, while getting our name known. Need to get with the English/Media/Government/History classes.

Media classes to do interviews with some of the old South Amherst Residents have them share

Stories of the Village of South Amherst while growing up.

Suggestion to reach out to Mr. Wiley for video interviews of Village members.

Mandy Dewitt volunteered to investigate

The Historical Society is looking to start a scholarship in some way awarded to FLSD students.

* **Website (Michael, Mandy and Lynn)**

Updates have been made to the website.

More work to be done, it’s a work in progress

1. Add past Meeting minutes
2. Membership page-the address needs to be changed with updated types of Memberships
3. Shopping page- remove calendars, change what is available, change price of the calendars
4. Remove online pay option until we understand how and where the money goes
5. Meeting minutes need to be added Jan through Dec. 2024
6. Shutdown electronic payments and account till a clear path of payment is established.

* **2025 Projects priorities and discussions (All)**

At the October meeting a list of future projects for the next five years was established.

**Top items for 2025**

1. Bylaws- High on the priority lists to update
2. Membership programs-need to update our Memberships
3. Historical Plaques for historical buildings and homes
4. Car Shows- Having our yearly Car Shows one on Saturday June 7th, 2025, the other one in the Early Fall be in September TBA, looking to possibly have a Farmers Market along with the Car Show.

* **Budget (Bill)**

Looking at new ideas to raise money. Fall Fest, Car Shows, and Garage Sales are what we are currently doing to raise money

* **Additional Fundraising Ideas (All)**

Steins, Wine glasses, Tee-Shirts, Ornaments

Possible Grants: NoPec and Community Action of Lorain County

Society needs to apply for a Cemetery Grant by the end of July. Civil War Solider Gravestone at Evergreen Cemetery needs to be restored.

* **Agenda items tabled till Feb**

Bylaws and Membership updating tabled due to absence of Committee member Peggy Nesbit.

**Important Dates:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Purpose** | **Date / Time** | **Location** |
| February Monthly Meeting | Thursday, February 20, 2025 | Firelands BOE Offices |

**Adjournment**: Motion by David Dewitt and Larry Jones / Accepted by all.

**Time**: 8:00pm