



Citizens Meeting Minutes
March 2, 2021

Those in attendance: Larry, Mike, Joe, Johann, Don, Paula, Skip, Ken and Doreen, Dawn, Larry and Joni

Larry opened the meeting with a review of current projects at Historic Point Basse.

Projects: Extending paths, expanding trail system

Don said that there are 3 paths that connect in the plantation pines. One goes to the parking lot and another goes north of the cul-de-sac.

Mike stated that Mark Klevene can widen the path on the land Domtar gave us. There is no bark on the new trail yet. Skip asked about removing stumps to avoid a hazard. The stumps referred to are south and southeast of the schoolhouse.

Larry asked who was using the trails and Don stated he was hoping the Blue Water Landing sign would make more people aware of the trail and they would be used more.

Larry said that he almost never sees anyone down on the trail or in the parking lot. We spend a lot of money and effort and need to promote it or it's a waste of time and money.

More discussion took place in regards to maps of the trails, school groups using the trails (including scavenger hunts), Pinery Road and plaques by the house detailing the trails.

Larry stated that Historic Point Basse is not for recreation, it is for history. We are not trying to promote the Town of Saratoga and Pinery Road.

Lastly, it was stated that we hope to use the one well and replace what we have for our water source.

Joe stated that he had received a call from the Ho-Chunk. After not being able to meet with them due to bad weather, he and Mark were able to meet with them to determine if there were effigy mounds between the house and the river. Aged trees and the cedars were items of interest. It is a concern if there are burial mounds and people are camping behind the house for Pioneer Fest. State of Wisconsin has rules about this. 3 elders of the Ho-Chunk tribe showed up and will be back in the spring. They were also there in 2010. Joe asked where the big boulders came from and Mike said it was from Domtar.

There was a burial site in front of the house but it is 6 feet deep and it was determined not to be Ho-Chunk because of the depth. Ground radar would be used to look for conical or linear mounds from the house to the river. The Ho-Chunk will be getting back to Joe.

Discussion was held regarding the benefits of befriending this group of people and not offending them. It would be good to have a working relationship with them. Ken stated one benefit would be to have them come in on a building project as interpretive stuff.

Garden: Paula said Diane had called her and wanted to plant a corn field. Larry said corn and tobacco were needed. Joe suggested the 3 Sisters method.

More discussion ensued and it was agreed more tobacco should be grown. Norskalden wanted more and Paula had contacted them but there has been no response. Plans are set and supplies are on order for the garden itself. A group of women have volunteered to help.



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Mead Witter Funding - Pavilion

Mike hand delivered a letter to the Mead Witter Foundation requesting funding for the pavilion and would like to have the project could get done this year. They will make a decision sometime in March.

General Repairs: A discussion took place involving keeping the site as nice as possible. Concrete and shingles will be needed for the pavilion. The walks and stairways by the school need to repaired. It was suggested using railroad ties and getting poles from one of the utility companies. Larry said he would make an effort to do that. More discussion about the poles.

Sugar Bush: Larry asked if we are going to hold this event. Dawn said that she can help and Brook is okay with helping in the house, but Karen never got back to her. (May want the school to be open?)

Johann, Don, Skip, Larry and Mike will be able to help – this is enough to cover the outdoor parts. This is usually a smaller event. Masks will be required inside. Will be March 27. The trees will be tapped a little later this week.

More discussion took place on how to make the syrup and how to make the whole day work. Would like to show older taps – Joe has some and uses sumac to make them. Larry suggested putting the event on the Facebook site if not already there. We are covered for Sugar Bush

Winter Feast 2022: Mike spoke with Dan Schmidt from the Nekoosa Community Senior Center and we will be able to have Winter Feast there next year but it will be a little later. This will not conflict with Valentine's Day and will help with a little extra time after Ice Harvest.

School Groups/Future Events: Hopefully, we will be able to hold school events in the fall. There was discussion about the fall school groups – right now, everything is cancelled. Larry stated that he heard things may be more back to normal by April – well, at least more normal than it has been. Mike mentioned that Mary Ann had received 14 participant applications for Pioneer Fest and that they are excited to come. Food will have to be approached differently this year – it could be late summer or early fall before the majority of people are vaccinated against COVID-19. In order to serve food, we need to have a permit. Masks would be required in the house. This led to more discussion. Dawn said to wear them or don't wear them. Paula and Larry said that people are still concerned enough to have masks inside. Dawn said that we could have groups go through the house and wait outside until the prior group was done.

Other Matters :

The April meeting might be held at the school. Don asked again about Pioneer Fest – are we going to have this? Are people going to be vaccinated by then?

Paula mentioned that there was no approval from the Master Gardeners yet. They have rules that apply to the garden, how many people are working, how many hours, etc.

Larry asked about the budget. Paula is still working on it and she will have something by the next Board Meeting. MOMCC will be held virtually this year. Paula said we could "bundle" under an institutional member. Are we going to be adding new people? Some discussion took place about this matter. If you want to attend, tell Paula. Paula then detailed some of the subjects that would be covered at MOMCC. Also discussed the activity of animals in the vicinity of Historic Point Basse.

Next meeting will be April 6, 2021 – this meeting adjourned approximately 7:15.