

GUNFLINT TRAIL HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Summer Monthly Membership Meeting  
Gunflint Lodge Conference Center  
August 12, 2013                      1:30 PM

**PRESENT:** John and Julie Henricksson, Fred and Fran Smith, Betty and Ron Hemstad, Keith and Donna Nord, Larry Wooding, Heidi Doo-Kirk, Don and Eleanor Lease, Warren and Barbara Zemke, Margaret and Gerald Thilmany, Carol Byers, Sharlene LeTourneau, Les Edinger, Larry and Sue Schei, Martha James, Mike Myszewski, Bill Douglas, Bruce Kerfoot, Judy Edlund, Harriet Taus, Bill Boissenin, Susan Scherer, Sally Valentini, Vi Nelson, Paul Dykstra, Craig Kirchoff, Dave Tuttle, Ada Igoe, Bud Darling.

**Vice President Dave Tuttle called the meeting to order at 1:35 PM.** The attendance sheet circulated.

**Secretary Barb Bottger electronically filed minutes of the July 8, 2013 meeting.**

**Motion to approve the July 8 minutes. Sharlene moved. Fran seconded.**

**Financial Report – Bud Darling:** GTHS finances remain in good shape with operating funds for the museum in line with last year. Funds generated through membership dues are similar to last year. All in all, things are going smoothly. The current GTHS projects – the Cultural Landscape Review and repair of the Gunflint Trail entrance signs in front of the Grand Marais Public Library – are both completely funded through grants and contributions. Bud can provide financial reports to anyone interested in reviewing one.

Dave commented that since the Board of Trustees already approved Bud's financial report, there's no need for the general membership to approve the report. He also thanked attendants for their time and support during a busy summer of events and other happenings.

**Membership Report – Ada Igoe:** We currently have 543 memberships; 346 of these memberships are current. After the surge of renewals in June, membership renewals are trickling in as people come up to their cabins and visit the museum. Ideally, the number of overdue members will be just over 100 (as it typically is) at the end of the year.

**Museum Report – Ada Igoe and Fred Smith:** Ada: Attendance numbers remain stable and very similar to last year's numbers. Despite a slower June than last year, this July was busier than last year, probably due in part to the cold, rainy weather at the end of the month. Eleanor mentioned that the online phone directory, Anywho, lists Chik-Wauk as closed. Ada will look into this.

Fred: Trustee John Schloot will soon order sound domes for the small theater area to help improve the noise level in the museum. A painting party will be held in the next couple weeks to refinish the Chik-Wauk windows. 10 volunteers are needed to refinish the windows. A sign-up sheet circulated.

**Grounds Report – Les Edinger:** The grounds are in good condition, including the trails and driveway. However, the wash rock that was spread in the upper parking lot earlier this summer hinders wheelchairs and will be moved down the road.

**Special Events – Sally Valentini:** *Review of Clearwater Lake Home Tour: July 21* – The home tour sold 67 tickets and 59 people attended the tour. The nice weather on the day of the tour may have contributed to the “no shows.” Everyone had a good time. However, since the organizing committee has now thrown two home tours in 10 months, there will be no tour next year. Ideally, the home tour will become a biennial, rather than annual, event.

*Chamber Music Concert: August 17*– Sally passed around a volunteer signup sheet. At the time of the meeting, the concert was nearly sold out and Sally was especially looking for parking assistance on the day of the event at Gunflint Trail Volunteer Fire Department Hall #1. Susan added that people begin arriving to the annual Christmas concert in Grand Marais an hour in advance to get good seats, so volunteers should plan to show up early.

*Old-Fashioned Pie and Ice Cream Social: September 1* – Sally passed around a volunteer signup sheet for homemade pies and “day of” duties such as setting up and serving. Tim McDonnell, John Henricksson, and possibly other authors will be on hand in the museum for book signings. The annual “sidewalk” sale will be held.

**Gunflint Canoe Race Report – Fran Smith:** The annual Gunflint Canoe Races were a great success with beautiful weather and an excellent crew of volunteers. The event raised \$12,800 for the Gunflint Trail Volunteer Fire Department.

**Mid-Trail Auction and Fundraiser Report – Judy Edlund:** Judy commented on the amazing community on the Gunflint Trail and stated that it is wonderful to have people work together for a good cause at events like the Mid-Trail Auction. This year’s event was very successful and raised more than \$8400 for the Gunflint Trail Volunteer Fire Department.

**Guest Speaker – Bruce Kerfoot:** Bruce talked about growing up on the Gunflint Trail. He shared tales of putting up ice, feeding sled dogs, making fudge, car sickness, going through the ice, minnow trapping, schooling and much more.

**Thanks to Judy for providing treats.**

**Meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM.**

**GUNFLINT TRAIL HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**Summer Monthly Membership Meeting**  
**Gunflint Lodge Conference Center**  
**September 9, 2013                      1:30 PM**

**PRESENT:** Ada Igoe, Sharon Baker, Larry & Sue Schei, Gerald & Margaret Thilmany, Pete & Krin Rauen, Harvey & Joan Perusse, Alice Weck, Bob Peterson, Lee Zopff, Phyllis Sherman, Don & Eleanor Lease, Bill Boissenin, Biz Clark, Tersenia Schuett, Daniel & Linda Preus, Les Edinger, John & Julie Henricksson, Sue Kerfoot, Betty & Ron Hemstad, Voni & Dale Swenson, John Schloot, Barb Bottger, Bob Baker, Sr., Bud & Patti Beyer, Vi Nelson, Sharlene LeTourneau, Carol Byers, Fred Smith, Melinda Graham Antisdell, John Fuhrman

**President Bob Baker, Sr. called the meeting to order at 1:32 PM.** The attendance sheet circulated.

First time attendees? John Fuhrman and Melinda from Gunflint Lake. Sue from Poplar Lake. Dan Preus from Grand Marais. Welcome!

Thanks to Ada for taking minutes last month and to Dave Tuttle for facilitating the meeting.

**Secretary Barb Bottger electronically filed minutes of the August 12, 2013 meeting.**

**Motion to approve the August 12 minutes. Fred moved. Harvey seconded. Motion passed.**

**Treasurer's Report – Bob for Bud**

We are doing well! Our income from the museum is very stable and we have money in the bank.

**Membership Report – Ada**

We are doing well! Membership is very stable and we continue to add a handful of new memberships each year. Right now 552 active, 379 current and renewals continue to trickle in. Total members = 967.

**Museum Report – Fred**

Pleased to report that the summer goal of painting windows was accomplished! Fred recognized the painters with a round of applause for their efforts. Plans for next year - we will install a hand rail to go up the center of the front porch steps. Next spring, we will re-seal the chimneys.

**Special Events – Bob for Sally**

Thanks to the members of the Concert committee for the efforts in putting on this sell out event. The net income was \$2,600 for the GTHS. **This committee would like more help and will work to bring another concert event in 2014. Vi asked that anyone with ideas or musicians come forth by letting the GTHS ([gths@boreal.org](mailto:gths@boreal.org)) or Vi Nelson ([vi@vinelson.com](mailto:vi@vinelson.com)) know.**

The Pie and Ice Cream Social was a good time with 24 pies eaten, a successful sidewalk sale and autographed books. The Social brought in \$4,000 for the GTHS.

In 2014, we will replace the Fish Fry with a different event. Our source of fish is going away! It is important that we have a social event in June to open the summer season. We will not be hosting a cabin tour in 2014. Thanks to Lee Zopff and the committee and permission given to take a year off. We will have a concert and the pie and ice cream social. We will announce the schedule in our spring newsletter.

### **Future Projects Update – Bob**

The key projects are a marine display, a nature center, a replica cabin and a maintenance building. We have learned of another approval process for the USFS (NEPA – National Environmental Protection Act) and we continue to move forward on two priority projects – the nature center and the marine display. Bruce Kerfoot has learned that Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation could fund \$50,000 and the IRRRB could fund \$20,000. With that in mind, we have decided to provide numbers for the construction of a nature center by October 1 to submit for grants with hopes of construction next summer. The marine display will be a timber frame building with plans to build in 2015.

Where will the nature center be placed? We have two possible locations. One is to the right of the outhouse building. When the resort was active, there was a two-story building there. The other is to the left of the outhouse. NEPA will be sure we minimize the displacement of soil. The cultural landscape plan will provide us with a master plan due this fall. The stars will really have to be aligned for all of this to happen on our timeline.

Will the nature center be heated? Some things in the museum should really be kept in year round temperature-controlled areas. There will be zoned, baseboard electric heating with the potential to provide year round temperature-controlled areas.

Do we have a budget for this building? The building will be between \$100,000-\$200,000.

Plumbing? It was decided long ago that maintaining plumbing was too much to take on. We will continue to use bottled water for drinking.

### **GTHS By-laws – Bob**

We changed our by-laws to extend the potential term of office of the secretary and treasurer from two consecutive 2-year terms to five consecutive 2-year terms.

### **Guest Speaker**

When traveling up to Gunflint Lake you see all the properties are on the south side with the exception of some cabins on the northeast side. They burned in the Ham Lake Fire but have been rebuilt. These cabins belong to the Preus family. Dan Preus is the grandson of Minnesota Governor Preus, governor from 1921-25. This is a family of Lutheran ministers so becoming the governor was unique. He passed a bill during his tenure to develop the Gunflint Trail. Thanks Dan for your interesting talk of the history of your family. His talk was recorded with the new equipment acquired by the GTHS. We hope to have his and all future talks on our website.

### **Other**

We have purchased a digital recorder system and Bud Beyer is willing to do interviews of some of the pioneers and their families.

The new sound system over the theatre area of the museum will be installed by opening of the summer season of 2014.

The traditional signs of the Gunflint Trail have been restored and will be installed next week.

Thanks to John Schloot for making all of this happen! Nice work John!!!

**Storytellers**

Do you have stories of the Gunflint Trail to tell or know someone who does? Please step forward and let us know as we prepare our schedule for next year.

**Treats**

Thanks to Fran Smith and Vi Nelson for providing treats!

Meeting adjourned 2:47 p.m.