

**GUNFLINT TRAIL HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**Board of Trustees**  
**Minutes of 11:00 a.m., Monday, June 10, 2013 Meeting**  
**At Gunflint Lodge Conference Center**

**Present:** Dave Tuttle, Betty Hemstad, Roma Leuty, John Schloot, Bud Darling, Barb Bottger, Phyllis Sherman, Fred Smith, Sally Valentini, Ada Igoe, Bill Douglas

**Absent:** Bob Baker Sr., Sue McCloughan

**1. Meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Vice Pres. Dave Tuttle.**

**2. Introduction of New Trustees**

Sue McCloughan and Bill Douglas have agreed to serve as Trustees. Their names will be put before the membership for formal approval.

**3. Additional Agenda Items – Fred: Invasive plant pull**

**4. Motion to approve the October 23, 2012 BoT meeting as electronically filed. Fred moved and Betty seconded.**

**Motion passed.**

**5. TREASURER’S REPORT – Bud Darling**

Nothing real significant. Payroll is higher because of the change in how we pay Ada and the addition of a second employee; namely, Kathy Lande. \$3,000 in donations were received for the Gunflint Trail sign refurbishing project. Endowment shows up on the balance sheet with balance of \$50,000.00.

**Motion to approve the Treasurer’s report. Betty moved and Fred seconded. Motion passed.**

**6. Membership – Ada**

June is renewal month. As of yesterday - 534 active memberships, 430 current. 500 renewal letters sent out last Thursday. Folks are using the electronic membership. Accolades to Ada for using the software to track our memberships.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**7. Museum Chair Report – Fred & Ada**

**a.** 2013 Opening – went really well. Attendance is quieter than last year but not a concern. Sue asked Ada for more rack cards to pass out around town.

**b.** Sound Control Status – The units are now operational. Two domes hang in the lights that direct sound down to the four chairs in the pioneer area. The sound broadcast from the monitor has been disconnected. The domes are working but we still have bleed from the little theater into the pioneer area. Fred says we don't have a true, complete picture of the sound until we correct the sound issue in the theater area. John estimates under \$2,000 to correct the sound issue with consultation by Jeremy Ridlbauer. Betty asked if we are getting the best? John says yes!

**Motion to go forward with the sound adjustment in the little theater area. Betty moved and Phyllis seconded.**

**Motion passed.**

**c.** Naturalist Program – Full schedule starting with USFS next week and Sunday Chik-Wauk presentations start in July.

**d.** Volunteers – June is slow for finding them but we are getting the coverage we need.

**e.** Temporary Exhibit – It is up. It is wonderful. Harriet Taus was key in providing the information. Thanks to Betty for a wonderful job. She is busy working on next year's exhibit, "Butterflies, Skippers, & Moths". Sue Kerfoot has agreed to take on the 2015 temporary exhibit titled "Paper Trail of the Gunflint Trail". Barb suggested the history of the GTVFD as a temporary exhibit in the future.

**f.** Maintenance Issues - Fred suggests we create a maintenance plan to repaint windows, those on the south side are already showing wear. **This plan starts with a painting party in August.** Fred rebuilt the main screen door over the winter. Thanks Fred!

**g.** Other – Scenic Byway Committee brought up the issue of invasives at Chik Wauk. Jim Raml is willing to lead some volunteers to pull some invasive plants on the property in July before they go to seed. Board approves the idea.

Ada has had people ask where the temporary exhibits go after they leave the museum. One suggestion was to scan the panels and put it on the website. Betty says Split Rock sends out a 14x17 approval sheet and is readable. **They could be mounted on black foam board and have them in the art for sale file.** Board approves of this idea.

**Ada gets many requests to donate artifacts. We have an outdated artifact donation form that people** are using and should be reviewed. We need a committee to review forms and work

with Ada to communicate with donors. Fred will serve on this committee and will ask for others at the membership meeting.

This is a very big issue. We have no appropriate storage of artifacts at this time.

We must first have a committee to formulate guidelines or policy and procedure. Fred, Dave and Betty agreed to serve on this committee. We will also explain this opportunity in crisis to the membership being careful to not estrange anyone from the mission of the museum.

**Motion to formulate an Acquisition Committee of five people including the site manager to write policies and procedures regarding offers to donate artifacts. John moved and Fred seconded. Motion passed.**

## **8. Grounds – Dave**

a. USFS gave a thumbs down on creating the Gneiss Lake Trail beyond Blueberry Hill. It goes through the BWCA. We will keep this on the burner and ask again.

b. Trail Signage – new signs on Blueberry Hill (high road, low road).

c. Road Gravel – Gunflint Excavating delivered and has spread it.

d. Clearwater Totem Pole – Possible donation of the original totem pole. The new Acquisition Committee will deal with this immediately! It has historical significance and must be intact. Dave Tuttle will check out the physical condition of it.

e. Entrance Sign – Should it be maintained? Dave T. will talk to Dave Seaton about that.

f. Paint – Interior walls of outhouse and ductwork for air conditioning in the museum will be painted.

g. Need to redo the boardwalk on Tamarack Trail.

## **9. Special Events – Sally**

a. Fish Fry - Monday, June 17, 2013 is first event. Membership renewals will be accepted. \$10 suggested donation jar. Ada will send out a reminder email to the membership on Wednesday.

b. Clearwater Cabin Tour – Sunday, July 21, is next

event. Committee estimates \$500 for expenses. \$30 a ticket limited to 75 tickets.

C. Chamber Music Concert – Saturday, August 17, 4 p.m. at Hall 1 area. Which building will depend on the acoustics. Cost to tune the piano is estimated to be \$300.

Also need to decide ticket cost.

d. Pie and Ice Cream Social – Sunday, September 1. Sally suggests that we do not pursue a Taste of the Gunflint Trail event this year.

## **Miscellaneous Topics**

### **10. Membership Meeting Program Speakers – Dave**

June – Wayne Anderson

July – Ted Young

August – Bruce Kerfoot

September -

### **11. Cultural Landscape Report Status – Fred**

We are making BIG progress. Positive meetings held in November, we have a fine professional working with us. She has started interviews that have revealed amazing information.

She talked about four areas we must adhere to: Preservation, Restoration, Rehabilitation, Reconstruction.

She said we should be talking in terms of **Rehabilitation** where we can ascertain our dreams/needs/goals and we can build what we need. We do not have the information to do a reconstruction. To satisfy State Historical Preservation Organization we must redefine and submit our goals for rehabilitation of physical structures. The officers will be gathering to put together a vision and bring that to the board.

Betty offered her thoughts and visions. She believes that the rehabilitation of the cabin should have the exterior looking historical and the interior be authentic as well; not to be used as the nature center. She believes we could build an all purpose, 2-story, 24'x24' building with a main room large enough for a nature center and an upstairs for storage, files, research, etc. The professional believes the parking lot area was the area of activity at the resort. This building could be built next to the biffy.

### **12. Comments on 2013 Newsletter – Ada**

Mailed 685 copies the week of May 10. Excellent except that the last 11 members were cut off the membership list! It was larger because we did not send out a newsletter last fall. Thus, the cost is only a little less than sending out two 4-page newsletters.

### **13. E Commerce at Chik-Wauk – Ada**



**Minutes of the June 10, 2013 meeting have been electronically filed by Secretary Barb Bottger.**

**Motion to approve minutes. Sharlene moved. Carol seconded. Motion passed.**

#### **Financial Report – Bud Darling**

Good news – GTHS is still in good financial shape even though we are a few thousand dollars behind where we were last year.

**Membership Report/June Renewals – Ada Igoe** We have 541 active memberships on the books (1 couple = 1 membership). Renewals were sent out in early June with 56% renewed as of today.

#### **Museum Report – Ada Igoe**

All is well at the museum. Naturalist program has started. USFS program has started. We have a core of 15-20 volunteers at the museum and we would like to include YOU in that core group!

We need you on Wednesday, July 10, at 9:00 a.m. We will be going around to pull invasives. Bring a pair of gloves, a trowel, bug spray and a water bottle!

At the Trustee meeting we discussed the need to increase membership. Bob asks the members present to talk to a neighbor about becoming a member of the GTHS.

#### **Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) Status – Bob**

Because the museum is on the National Historic Register we are required to submit this report. We also need to work with the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) and the US Forest Service (USFS) because it is their property. When we went to the USFS and SHPO with our plans for the property, we learned we had to first submit this CLR in order to proceed. So, we hired Quinn Evans, an architectural firm from Madison, WI to do this report. It summarizes the history of the property and gives us a plan for future projects. Last winter we had a walk through with representatives from all interested parties and had a presentation from the Quinn Evans rep. In June, we had a brainstorming meeting and reprioritized our projects. Even before final approval of the CLR, we may be able to proceed with our first of four projects to be completed in the next 5 years.

**The first project is a marine exhibit on the water with a fishing pier.** There are 3 legs to this project. We have no idea what this will cost but we have Bruce Kerfoot to head up fundraising efforts. Sue Kerfoot and Betty Hemsted will work with Split Rock Design to coordinate the exhibits. Dave Tuttle will coordinate the design of the building. If you would like to get involved with any of these aspects, please let us know! We'd like to have a design to present for approval by the end of the year. We could do some construction on the ice this winter.

Questions from Members - Does it need to look just like the boat storage that was there? We are able to REHABILITATE rather than reconstruct which allows us to build what we want. What are the approximate dimensions? First guess is 32'x48' which will probably change. What boats will be exhibited? We have some and expect to gain more! Will it have to be moved off the water for the winter? It will stay in the water all winter.

**Our second project will be a multi-purpose building that will include a nature center, office space, and archive storage.** There used to be a 2-story structure where the Griffis' once lived. We hope to build something similar, a 24'x40' building. This could be located on either side of the outhouse.

**Our third project will be a rental cabin reflective of the 1940's.** It will be constructed on one of the sites that still has footings!

**Our fourth project will be a tool and equipment storage facility.** This will be built out of sight as a utility building.

Want to get involved? If you have a friend of a friend... Let us know!!

#### **Grounds Report – Dave Tuttle**

Adam and Casy of Clearwater Lodge have donated the original totem built by Billy Needham. Bob Olson will repair and repaint and you will see it in the future.

#### **Special Events – Sally**

June Fish Fry – We made over \$800 and served over 100 people. Thanks to Gunflint Lodge for the food, the Gunflint Lake Homeowners Association for canopy and chairs, to Deb Mark of Seagull Outfitters for volunteers to set up and take down, and to the members who helped with cooking and serving, etc.

Clearwater Lake Cabin Tour on Sunday, July 21. This event is open to members only. Still have openings at 1:00 and 2:00 tour. Make your reservation today with Lee today! You can also sign up to bring cookies or to be a docent in one of the cabins. We need five or six more people.

Chamber Music Concert, 4:00 p.m., August 17. Tickets are \$20 each for the concert and artist reception. This event is open to the public. The performers include oboeist Philis Anderson, orchestra conductor Bill Beckstrand, flutist Judy Ranheim, pianist Paul Dykstra, flutist Paul Jacobson, soprano Erika Ternes, soprano Laura Popkes, flutist Barb LaVigne, master of ceremonies will be Craig Kirchhoff. If you can help with this, talk to Sally!

Pie and Ice Cream Social, Sept. 1, Labor Day Weekend at Chik-Wauk.

#### **Other**

Lee Zopff presented the quilt that will be raffled at the fundraising event for the Gunflint Trail Volunteer Fire Department. It will be held Thursday, August 8 (not on Saturday this year) at the

Poplar Lake Fire Hall grounds. If you have contributions for the auction or flea market, contact Lee.

Next Wed., July 15 is the annual Gunflint Canoe Races to benefit the Gunflint Trail Volunteer Fire Department. Jim Jamieson reports that ticket sales are a little slower which could be due to rainy weather. Anyone free to sell tickets at the Trail Center this Friday or Saturday from 4-8 p.m.? Also need help on race day for kids games. Donations for the auction can be given to Sally.

### **Guest Speaker – Ted Young**

Ted was a trained professional organizer in St. Paul and in Chicago. In 1953 his parents bought property on Poplar and Ted spent his summers as dock boy and later a guide at a few resorts. In the mid 1970's Ted returned with his wife Barbara to run an outfitting business.

Ted talked about the political controversies and compromises surrounding the passage of the BWCAW legislation, inviting those present who lived through those days to help him retell the stories. Ted concluded with the lessons that everyone learned that the people of the BWCA are just as important as the birds and moose AND this legislation was good for the outfitters. We've come a long way since then and we are a much more diverse place!

**Thanks to Kate, Sharlene, Joan and Lee who have provided treats for today!**

**Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.**

## **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.