

The February meeting of the Burton Heritage Society was called to order at 6:15pm on Wed. February 8, 2023 at the Burton Railroad Depot by Susan Kiel, president. There were 11 members present and one guest. Present: Mary Grace Hearnberger, Denis Huebner, Steph Jarvis, Peggy & Murry Kieke, Susan Kiel, Paul McLaughlin, Barbara Schoenemann, James Schulenberg, Lindy Varner, Tom Whitesides and guest Jody Winston.

The January minutes were approved as written (TWhitesides; 2nd LVarner).

The treasurer's report was given as follows: General account \$7,912.00, Chapel restoration \$27,854.56, Depot pavilion \$2,132.66, Stagecoach \$1,320.83, regular savings \$6,183.71. The report was approved (LVarner; 2nd TWhitesides).

Depot committee: Lindy reported that the depot plumbing broken by the last freeze had all been repaired. During repair he discovered water still runs after it is shut off. He put a cut off underneath the depot and found the one that is behind the caboose to shut off water to restrooms. He also reworked the depot sink. Everyone thanked Lindy and Paul for their work on these repairs. Lindy will create a diagram with the location of all cut offs that we can leave in the depot for reference for future freezes. Lindy also discussed that he had looked at the stagecoach last month and believes our volunteers can rework the stagecoach on their own and get it up and running with about \$2,000 or \$3,000 as opposed to the previous figure of \$20,000 suggested by society friend Sterling Merryman. Steph reminded everyone that we are still waiting to have the stagecoach officially given to us by UT, so no work will happen before that is done.

Mt. Zion: Steph reported that she met with Gary Ladewig about the next phase of work at Mt Zion Historical Chapel. Gary will complete a bid for us to replace all siding on the building and repair/reframe all windows in preparation for reworking/replacing the windows. James S suggested we consider smart siding as opposed to hardie siding due to the weight difference. Steph asked James to reach out to Gary to discuss this with him.

Old Business: Only old business was again thanking Lindy and Paul for their work to repair the plumbing.

New Business: Texas Ranger Day is coming up quickly on March 11. All members were asked to help distribute posters/flyers and Steph had a list of spots for the flyers to go. Donations are needed for the silent auction and members were asked to contact local businesses for donations. Susan and Barbara will send out sponsorship letters to previous sponsors at the same time they send out membership letters. She reminded all that these sponsorships are how we pay cookers prize money, pay for extra meat and porta potty. The group discussed the possibility that some cooker teams might not participate due to the high cost of meat these days. It was decided to waive the registration fees this year and to purchase meat for the cookers to use. We hope that this will keep them coming as they are such a big part of the success of this event. All members were asked to check with local meat suppliers about donating or discounting fajita meat for this. Kristie Manley has had a great response for vendors and so far 33 people want to come. To work them in, we will have to move the cookers closer to the caboose and set up specific places for them to be. And we will have to make 2 lines of vendors along this edge of Railroad Street. For the 200th anniversary of the Texas Rangers the Legends and the Old West Rangers will give a short ceremony at 10am on Ranger Day at Mt Zion Cemetery. Legends plan to set up at Depot by 8am and then head out to the cemetery. There will be a brief history of the Rangers and Leander McNelly and they will fire a salute. Tom expects the event to last about 30 minutes. We have sent invitations to our local sheriff, constable, Burton commissioners and a few other folks. Tom W is trying to find our local Ranger's address. Steph will confirm with Tommy Avis about the ceremony happening that day. Tom W has coordinated with the Cub Scouts for them to help with the flag raising at noon on Ranger Day. He is still waiting to hear from the Girl Scouts. The kids will help raise the flag (with Legends help) and lead the pledge. Tom W also suggested that we get a birthday cake for the 200th anniversary and Su asked him to order one at HEB. We will also need to buy cake plates/forks for this. Susan reminded everyone that we still need volunteers for all parts of the day and that Steph will plan to put the sign up sheet on our FB page and website this weekend. We also need to work on the following for the overall schedule: flag raising/pledge, Little McNelly's, Lil Mr and Miss contest, "dying" contest, birthday cake. Steph will make sure all info is included in the press release. After more overall discussion about the event, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully,

Steph Jarvis on behalf of Brenda Varner