

The January meeting of the Burton Heritage Society was called to order on January 11th, 2023 at the Burton Railroad Depot with six members present and one guest.

Present: Charlene Free, Steph Jarvis, Susan Kiel, Barbara Schoenemann, Tom Whitesides, Lindy Varner and guest Jody Winston.

The minutes were read from the November meeting and were accepted. (Motion Tom W, 2nd Lindy V.) The treasurer's report was given by Barbara S. She also reported on income from the Burton Christmas Market. We also discussed some recent great donations made for the restoration of Mt. Zion. Discussion of overall event: great vendor turnout, decent traffic, we definitely need more turkey stew for next year. BHS will make a donation of \$100 to the Burton VFD to thank them for their hard work on the stew. Depot committee: Lindy reported that not much to share at this time. The group discussed the recent freeze and although pipes were turned off, since they weren't drained we had some breakage. For future reference we need to create a sheet that stays in the depot that shows exactly where the drains were installed by Lindy V: first drain is directly down below where the corner water spigot comes out (by caboose side), there is a "T" and then goes to another spigot on the other side. Both need to be opened when we expect a freeze. Lindy will come and fix the pipes soon.

Mt Zion committee: Steph reported that she will meet with Gary Ladewig this coming week for a bid on siding and re-framing of the windows at Mt. Zion. Gary warned that we must remember they might have to shore the building up in order to hold the weight of hardy siding. Members asked that we make sure there aren't other lighter options, such as "smart siding?"

New business: Discussion moved onto Texas Ranger Day set for Sat. March 11th. Tom W reported that there will be a smaller group from the Legends due to part of the group heading to other event for the 200th anniversary of the Texas Rangers. Tom will again serve as the judge but he will need a court clerk, deputies and the sturdy table to be moved outside. Steph reported that Bob Bailey will also be coming and that he has asked for us to plan a short ceremony out at McNelly's grave before TRD. Tom W agreed to make plans for that. Once we have a plan we should get back to Bob with the details. Steph will get with Tom to add the ceremony to our TRD press release. Other discussion on possible ways to really highlight the 200th anniversary: We might add more to a "speech" about overall ranger history and make sure Denise helps us have that as loud as possible to make it a bigger deal that day, have a special banner made for the 200th anniversary. Tom W will work up the plan for the flag raising to include our local youth (girl scouts, cub scouts). We will again plan to have some sort of presentation at the school to invite students to TRD and we will appear on the radio. We set a workday to clean at the depot on Sunday, March 5th starting at 1pm. Plan to bring several power washers to clean the depot siding. Other to do's for TRD: 1) plan more live action for the day as folks are always asking about that 2) gather sponsor funds to pay for our chuckwagon cooker display again 3) reach out to Bluebonnet, Kyle Merten, for donated water for the day 4) Call Tents across Texas to check on another 20x30 tent for the day (last year cost was \$450).

Old business: Lindy asked about status of stagecoach and possible restoration by Sterling. Su reported that Sterling's estimate was about \$20,000. Unfortunately, we still have not final work from UT on the donation of the stagecoach to BHS, so Steph will continue trying to get an answer from our contact there. In other business, Su shared that Barbara S and her daughter Kacey did a great job cleaning the flowerbed by the depot and making it smaller so that we have less to maintain. BHS will donate a gift certificate to thank Kacey for her hard work.

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn. (Motion, Lindy V, 2nd Barbara S).