**SPARTA HANCOCK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES. 8-28-2022**

The Historical Society met at 3:00 pm in the fellowship hall of Pierce Memorial Church for our quarterly meeting. We have been meeting irregularly due to COVID precautions.

**Present were**: Rick Joslyn, President; Griffith Polaty, Vice-President; Mauriel Joslyn, Treasurer; Members: Jean Perry, Karen West, Greg and Vonda Garrison, Jan Garland, Jeffrey Waddell, Maria Rodriguez, ,

Dues were collected for the 2022 year, and some paid for 2023 as it is just around the corner.

The **AGENDA:**

Development of a Spirit Walk/Historical Tour of our cemetery

Discussion over current FB admin/moderators

**TREASURER’S REPORT:**

Only expenses for 2022 have been $95. For annual Mt. Zion termite treatment and monthly $15 fee for website hosting and maintenance.

Renovation Fund has no change. Current balance $3321.70

General Fund balance is $416.95

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Property updates on Mt. Zion church and the Graves Barn were given. Mt. Zion continues to be in good condition, thanks to the Sigman Brothers mowing and care. Graves Barn continues to have a wet issue because no one keeps up the drainage ditch nearby. It has not been mowed all summer. Rick Joslyn prayed Roundup to keep vines off the building but that is needed again.

PLANS: Kelly and Mark Stephens who purchased the Alston-Wiley house have volunteered to do some work on these issues at the barn. Vonda Garrison made a motion that we take up a collection to get the grass cut by their yard man for a one time cutting now. Motion accepted and we took up a $120 donation by passing around a bowl. She will see that it gets done.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Rick Joslyn presented an update on the drama project being funded by the Development Authority and Chamber of Commerce. It was a proposed play about the Amanda America Dickson trial, based on transcripts from the actual trial. Nothing is finished yet and there was nothing to report.

**The Cemetery Tour.** Mauriel passed out a rough draft map noting the 13 graves she suggests as the tour stops. She gave a short description of the individuals and explained why they are chosen. Mostly it was because of having enough information to give a story about each, and the variety of time periods and ages they represent in the community’s history. She and Rick met with the Cemetery Association committee members in July and all were in favor, and offered to cover some of the costs for signs and other preparations, maybe lighting.

Everyone agreed with proceeding with planning to be ready by October. A committee was chosen.

**CEMETERY SPIRIT/HISTORY WALK COMMITTEE:**

Jeffrey Waddell

Rick and Mauriel Joslyn

Jean Perry

Jan Garland

Debbie Butts

Maria Rodriguez

Suggestions included: it can be a fundraiser; let concessions have food for sale and split proceeds; plan to do it more than just one weekend. It is a History Walk, not a scary event.

The Pine Tree Festival is a go and will be Oct. 29 & 30. Still to be determined if we want to try and have it those dates. Advertise on local radio, Union Recorder and Sandersville/Ishmaelite papers. Also, create an outreach on Facebook, and search for costumes if we have live individuals to portray the deceased.

**HOUSE TOUR IDEAS**:

Discussion was unanimous that we need to do this again. Maria said people have been asking at her store. A suggestion for a church tour at Christmas was made and this is a good possibility for 2023.

**HOLSEY CEMETERY CLEANUP**:

Dip was approached by Dr. Smith ??? To coordinate a cleanup of the black church cemetery that is predominantly 19th century graves on Central Ave. The cemetery is overgrown and impassible, and it would be a good community project with outreach to more people in our county. Two well-known citizens in that cemetery are Julia Dickson and Maria Hunt.

REPORTS FROM THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Dip has heard from grants he applied for. The Federal grant from Hurricane Irma damage will be coming in to help stabilize the Old City Hall building by getting a new roof, cornice and windows.

He also reminded everyone to report to the city if there is house remodeling going on and the owner doesn’t have a COA sign in the yard. This designates that the work has been appoved under the Commission to keep our historic structures property restored. As the city to enforce these preservation ordinances for maintenance.

HPC has fostered good will in the community through donations to Summer Reading Programs, Bookbag Drive for school and donating period furniture to Glen Mary to help Marilyn with attracting clients for events. Mark Phillips will be teaching graining classes to Georgia College students at the Peeler House on the property.

DREAM STREETS

Karen brought us up to date on her projects. The Friday Farmer’s Market at Elm Street Gardens is wildly successful. It was created by the HPC, Elm Street Gardens and Dream Streets for a community revitalization project.

Karen also mentioned the discovery of a mural in an alley between two of the commercial buildings on Broad St. There will be a 13 WMAZ news segment in the upcoming week. Possible date for the mural is 1909, but she is continuing to research it.

Guest Martha Harris, who owns historic property on Hwy. 77, asked for support about the ongoing dog problems in Sparta. It is not safe to walk the areas around Maiden Lane, and house tour attendees in the past have been bitten. We have these houses on our walking tour and the city refuses to enforce ordinances against unleashed dogs. She asked all residents to attend city and county meetings to keep up pressure on officials to tend to this problem.

We had a Show and Tell feature and everyone enjoyed seeing some of the interesting items that have been donated to the Society. Jeffrey Waddell brought in a gourde that has been in his family since the Civil War! Carved into it was the name Armstrong 1865.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15.