**SPARTA HANCOCK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES 1-28-2023**

**PRESENT:** Jean Perry and Peggy Esco, Rick and Mauriel Joslyn, Dip Polatty and the new owners of the Alston-Wiley House on Maiden Lane.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:**

Restoration Fund: $3321.70

General Fund: $1260.53

The Cemetery Tour was a great success mostly due to sponsors. We only sold about 60 tickets. One lesson learned was better advertising for next year. Cost to us was $306.42. Net was $738.58.

Member input for improvement included recommendations for flashlights to give out to attendees for next Cemetery Tour. Lead time on advertising a must this time. Maybe pick an October date for 2023.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Christmas Tour of homes. We need to find homeowners who are willing to open their houses. Also a good lead time on advertising. Definite date needs to be set. A committee was chosen to take the lead on this. Jan Garland and Debbie Butts will be asked to spearhead it. Dip suggested two time frames on tour day: One daytime tour and one candlelight tour.

Grant updates: Old City Hall: bids are extremely high. Materials are double the price from what they were in 2020 when we accepted the grant. State office is re-thinking the amount of the award to allow for this adjustment.

Dip submitted a 1772 Foundation grant application for Mt. Zion to finish the painting on the front of the church.

He has also submitted an application to the Americana Corner grant from Savannah for Graves Barn drainage. That grant is still pending. We should hear in February.

Dip has applied to the National Park Service for $250,000 grant for facade restoration. This will be administered and qualified property owners can apply for. funds. A match of 25% from owners will be necessary. Both the City and Development Authority must sign off on it.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Ebenezer Cemetery Clean up. Rick gave a power point on the state of the cemetery and what we can do to help. He will contact Rev. Gwen Smith of Holsey to get their involvement. We tentatively set Feb. 11 to meet.

Kiosk from REACH will be installed soon. We will send out emails with a date. They want us to give a cemetery walk in celebration of its installment. We need pictures of old scenes of Sparta for a display.

Discussion about another Shape Note Singing. Dip suggested we tie into a date for the Sacred Sites visiting organization. The Development Authority is involved.

Wedding booked at Mt. Zion for May. We will need a clean up date to prepare for the event.

**NEXT MEETING WILL BE IN APRIL. DATE TBA FOR PLANNING.** Dates will have to be confirmed for Christmas House Tour and Cemetery Tour at this meeting.

Adjourned at 11:40.