

### Minutes of the November 20, 2008 meeting.

The Middletown Historical Society met on Thursday, November 20, 2008 at the Historical Center with 5 members present: Buster Johnson, Art Brown, Mel Sayford, Brank DeBruhl and Jake Smith.

In the absence of the Secretary, Vice-president Buster Johnson read the minutes of the previous meeting. They were accepted as read.

Treasurer Art Brown gave his financial report. Total cash assets were \$11,389.82. Art reported that the profit from the potato luncheon was \$233.75. President Jake Smith mentioned that this was much less than expected, and that attendance and profit from the luncheons has been declining.

**BELL TOWER** - Conduit has been in ground and is ready for completion by Dan Dunn. Dan was given a budget and knows what our requirements are for the project. Jake will contact him for an update.

**RAMP HANDRAIL** - We are waiting on an estimate from Jon Ashton. There was discussion about alternate materials for the handrail, including wood, pipe and stainless steel. Edges of the step and ramp will be painted yellow for safety and visibility.

**WALL REPAIR** - An estimate from Randy Russell was approximately \$3,000.00 for sandblasting exterior block to remove paint. Much discussion about problem and solutions. Tabled until spring.

**SECURITY SYSTEM** - A new security system was Installed by ASI on November 1<sup>st</sup>. They will try to increase the volume or provide a louder door bell. Entry codes are unchanged.

**FIRE EXTINGUISHERS** - Jim Merchand of Fire Pro Protection of Muncie inspected our fire extinguishers today. He was referred to us by Art. Our units have been out of date for over a year. Jim says our range hood fan does not work. It is required by fire code. We will check with ASI to see if they could have accidentally disconnected fan. Otherwise, an electrician should check fan to restore operation.

**BUILDING INSURANCE** - Agent Frank Ley of W. C. Hess Agency reviewed our policy which has not been updated since 1998. Building square footage is greater than reported in policy (3500 s.f.). Actual square footage is 4200. The building replacement cost has increased from \$275K in '98 to \$534K today. Frank recommended that we increase coverage and take advantage of the inflation clause to keep replacement cost and coverage current. Our premium will rise from \$667 per year to \$1034. All agreed to increase coverage and use inflation protection clause.

**NEWSLETTER** - Jake reported that Steve Holmes is working on the newsletter and would like some ideas for articles. A report on the genealogy project was one idea.

Buster asked if it would be appropriate to make a plaque for Jack Dellinger who died recently. He was a Bronze Star recipient in the Vietnam war. He may have been the only Bronze Star recipient from Henry County. Art suggested that it should be researched to determine if he was the only Bronze Star holder. In the past, we have avoided honoring individuals so we will not cause conflicts. Jack did the artwork for the Society's logo. This would be a good article for the newsletter also.

**HISTORY BOOK UPDATE** - Jake reported that Jim Fadely has completed the foreword for the book and it has been sent to Trent Spence. We now need to contact printer Dan Snow to coordinate the publishing details. It is possible that we could have the volume to sell by early next year if all goes well.

The next meeting will be January 22, 2008.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jake Smith, President