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New Boston, Pa - August 2018



MAHANoy AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1-7 West Centre Street P.O. Box 127
Mahanoy City, PA 17948 570-773-1295
mahsr@mahanoyvisitorscenter.com

The Mahanoy Area Historical Society met Monday, January 31, 2005 in the second-floor meeting rooms of the Mahanoy Area Downtown Center. Attending were: Frank Selgrath, Elizabeth Coombe, Peg Grigalonis, Ray Eichman, Patricia Brown, Rose Flamini, Lorrie Ogden, Joseph Flamini, Joan Goodman, Charlotte Maurey, Kathy Wufsus, Ramon Soto.

President Frank Selgrath opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a brief prayer by Ray Eichman. .

MINUTES

Minutes of the November 29th meeting were accepted as printed on a motion by Wufsus, seconded by Rose Flamini with the notation that a \$75 fee paid to the Mahanoy City Girls Softball League should be listed as an advertising expense rather than a donation inasmuch as the society does not donate money.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report given by Grigalonis indicated there was a balance of \$6,759.39 as of the end of 2004. She said she had to break down some ledger items and then the 2004 books will be ready for auditing by Lois Griffiths. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Goodman, seconded by Maurey and unanimously accepted.

CORRESPONDENCE

Secretary Brown said a letter was received from Patricia Schnitzus thanking the historical society for participating in the annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Executive Committee

Selgrath said the society received a \$350 contribution from PPL for 2003. He said he spoke with Martha Herron at the company's Hazleton office and she said funds may be available for 2004 and 2005. She asked that a letter be sent to her on society letterhead and she would send the necessary forms. Brown will send a letter of thanks for the donation and request the forms.

Selgrath said several memorial donations had been received for his brother, Bill, and asked for suggestions on how these and future memorials should be handled. Goodman suggested listing the memorials in the newsletter and Ogden suggested the memorial gifts be placed in a separate bank account. Eichman said the gifts should be acknowledged and asked whether something new should be purchased or a plaque placed on an item the society now has. Odgen said once the amount of money reaches a certain point, a plaque could be placed on the wall with the person's name. She suggested the society having a wish list and said the family should have a say on what is purchased from that list in memory of their deceased relative. Coombe said a separate account should be opened for the memorial donations, otherwise it would get swallowed up in the general account. A motion was made by Ogden, seconded by Eichman and unanimously passed to open a separate account for memorial donations. Bank personnel should be questioned on what type of account would be best. The motion passed with no opposition. Wufsus suggested keeping a memorial book with the names of people who were remembered and those who had made monetary contributions.

A motion was made by Maurey to purchase a large folding ladder for the museum room. The motion was seconded by Rose Flamini and unanimously passed on a voice vote.

Membership Committee

Eichman said membership in the society had reached 400 as of January 31, 2005.

Book Advisory Committee

The original 400 books ordered by the committee have been dispersed to contributing members and another 400 books were ordered. Of the new books, 100 have been given to contributing members or others. Eichman said any unopened cartons may be returned to the printer within one year at no cost to the society. At the suggestion of Odgen, a round of applause was given to the book committee for their efforts.

Fund Raising

Eichman said the Mahanoy City High School Alumni would like to pay for the cost of transferring the Estelle Barnhart collection of songs from the current tapes to CDs and have the CDs sold from the website of Shirley Ryan, president of the MCHS Alumni. It was suggested that the tapes be taken to **Remember When** in Brockton, which has a good reputation for reproducing studio quality sound. Eichman will pursue the matter to see what can be done.

Artifacts

Reporting for the Artifacts Committee, Rose Flamini said there have been 1,185 acquisitions to the society with 20 received in 2005.

Community Preservation

Goodman said an 11" by 18" bronze plaque could be purchased for \$158, but someone would have to be paid to erect the plaque. In addition to the home at Spruce and Main Streets that was discussed before, Goodman said she would like to see a plaque erected at the Service Electric Cable Television Company, the home of cable television in America.

A list of criteria was drawn up by Goodman and will be distributed. She said the criteria noted that a home must be 50 years old or more and have not been significantly altered from its original state or that the building made significant contributions to the history of the community.

It was suggested by Odgen that the Schuylkill River Greenway Association be contacted to see if it could financially assist the program to lessen the burden on the historical society. She said the association might require that their logo be placed on the plaque. The Community Preservation Committee will meet at 2 p.m. Tuesday, February 8, in the museum room.

Programs and Speakers

Odgen discussed various speakers for coming meetings. She said a past speaker on Indian heritage was well received and she could get him to return. She said he was flexible as to when he could speak and would be available for the August meeting. A video performance of the "Breaker Boys" will be presented at the February meeting.

Special Committees

Eichman said he spoke with Lois Griffiths, who volunteered to do an audit of the society's 2004 books after the first of the year.

Special Events

A report on the Christmas program was given by Wufsus who said income amounted to \$900 and expenditures amounted to \$522, leaving \$378. After a \$200 donation was given to St. Fidelies Church, which hosted the program, \$50 to the Good American Hose Company color guard, a balance of \$128 remains. She said the three clergymen who participated in the program were unable to attend the dinner because of prior commitments but she would present each with a picture taken at the church program and a copy of the historical book.

UNFINISHED

There was no new business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

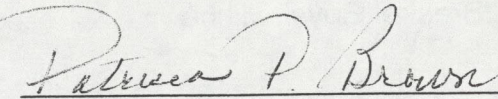
Several calls have been received at the museum room asking what hours it was opened and Eichman said it is now down to three days – Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 1 to 4 p.m. Wufsus asked if it could be open on weekends. Eichman said if he gets a call that someone wants to visit, he will open the center, but in the past he sat there and there were no visitors. Selgrath said Eichman is the only one who has a code number for the security system and more volunteers are needed if the society intends to have the room open any additional days of the week.

Wufsus said the owner of a Mahanoy City hobby shop, who attended the Christmas program and dinner, said he would be willing to put on a program for the group.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m. on a motion by Odgen, seconded by Soto.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia P. Brown, Secretary



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Because of the inclement weather on Monday, February 28, 2005, the meeting of the Mahanoy Area Historical Society was postponed and held Monday, March 7, 2005 in the second-floor meeting rooms of the Mahanoy Area Downtown Center. Attending were: Frank Selgrath, Elizabeth Coombe, Ray Eichman, Patricia Brown, Lorrie Ogden, Joan Goodman, Tom Ward, Charlotte Maurey, Ramon Soto, James Hanley, John Stoffer, Jay Hanley, and Francis Burke.

President Frank Selgrath opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a brief prayer by Ray Eichman.

MINUTES

Minutes of the January 31st meeting were accepted as printed..

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report given by Financial Secretary Elizabeth Coombe in the absence of Treasurer Peg Grigalonis indicated there was a balance of \$6,759.39 as of January 1, 2005. Deposits amounted to \$635 and expenditures to \$28.56, and an 87-cent service charge, leaving a balance of \$7,374.96 as of January 31, 2005. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Goodman, seconded by Maurey and unanimously accepted.

CORRESPONDENCE

Secretary Brown said letters were sent to the Reverends William Glosser, Paul Chapman, and Harry Reed as well as the Good American Hose Company thanking them for their participation in the Christmas program held at St. Fidelis Church in December. A letter was also sent Renata Shaup of Delano thanking her for the desert she made for the Christmas dinner.

A letter was sent to Martha M. Herron at PPL thanking her for the \$350 donation and stating the society would be interested in applying for future grants. Another letter was sent to Peg Grigalonis, president of the Mahanoy City Library Board, asking for permission to store the society's genealogical records on the second floor of the library. A letter was sent to Cory Kegerise at the Schuylkill River Heritage Area seeking a grant of \$7,200 to establish a genealogical research center on the second floor of the Mahanoy City Public Library.

Executive Committee

Selgrath said he had not asked for a motion at previous meetings to extend the terms of Ray Eichman as curator and Elizabeth Coombe as financial secretary until the end of 2005. After that, the positions will be filled when other officers are elected. A motion to that effect was made by Ogden, seconded by Soto, and passed without opposition.

Selgrath said the 2004 audit has been completed and the 2005 budget was completed as well. Selgrath said the society's participation in the Schuylkill County Historical Society Day at the Fairlane Village Mall on February 12, was rather disappointing. He said no hats or books were given away to contributing members. A total of \$9 was received in donations and a new member, Peter Shinkowsky of Northampton, joined. Shinkowsky said the curtain that once hung in the Victoria Theatre was now hanging in a movie theatre in Northampton.

The new ladder has arrived and is in use in the museum room. Selgrath said a Memorial Fund Committee has been set up with Marjorie Fletcher serving as chairperson. She will outline criteria for how the donations should be spent. A memorial fund account has been opened at M&T Bank.

All articles for the coming newsletter should be e-mailed to Ogden before March 14.

Membership Committee

Eichman said three new members have joined the society since last month. He said sixty 2004 members and four 2003 members have not renewed their 2005 membership. Currently there are there are slightly over 400 members on the rolls.

Finance Committee

Selgrath said Treasurer Peg Grigalonis could not attend the meeting because of a prior commitment, but had mentioned about pursuing a grant for a senior aide to help in the museum room. Selgrath said the society should be aware of the responsibilities of having a senior aide. Brown will send a letter to Gary McCready at Careerlink asking for further information.

Artifacts

Reporting for the Artifacts Committee, Eichman said 23 acquisitions have been received to date this year. He said there is not much traffic in the museum room at this time, but he expects it to pick up when the warmer weather arrives.

Community Preservation

Goodman said an application for a \$5,000 grant to erect bronze plaques at historical sites in the area will be submitted in March through the office of state Representative Neal Goodman to the Department of Community and Economic Development; however, grant money is not expected to be received until December. She said it will be a slow process to get the job done, but it will be done right. Goodman said one of the stipulations with the grant is that the plaque must be erected by the home or business owner as a liability issue. The wording on the plaque will indicate it was erected by the Mahanoy Area Historical Society.

Programs and Speakers

Selgrath said Bruce Wessner will speak on the Reading Railroad at the April 25th meeting, Lorraine Stanton at the June 27th meeting, and Richard Welker will speak about Lenape Indians at the August meeting. Selgrath said he had a few Victor Schertzinger movies he could show at a later date.

Special Events

Francis Burke agreed to have his 1950 classic car appear in the St. Patrick's Day Parade March 19th in Girardville. Ray Eichman will accompany him and the historical society's magnetic signs will be affixed to both sides of the car.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Soto asked if any type of donation was given to speakers who present programs at society meetings. He said he thought speakers should be given some small amount to offset their travel expenses. Ogden will check with other societies in the county to see if they pay honorariums to their speakers.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

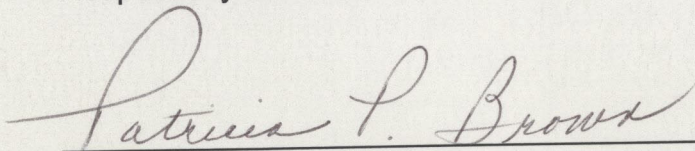
ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m. on a motion by Soto. The next meeting will be held Monday, March 28.

PROGRAM

Immediately following the regular meeting, a video of the Breaker Boys, previously taped in Pottsville, was shown by Ray Eichman. Taking part in the video was society member Bill O'Brien portraying the ballad of John J. Curtis, who lost his eyesight in the Morea mines in 1888.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia P. Brown, Secretary



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The monthly meeting of the Mahanoy Area Historical Society was held Monday, March 28, 2005 in the first-floor meeting rooms of the Mahanoy Area Downtown Center. Attending were: Frank Selgrath, Ray Eichman, Francis Senglar, Peg Grigalonis, Patricia Brown, Joan Goodman, Ramon Soto, Francis Burke, Leslie Richardson, Rose Flamini, Joe Flamini, and Dolly Wagner.

President Frank Selgrath opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a brief prayer by Ray Eichman.

MINUTES

Minutes of the March 7th meeting were accepted as printed with the notation that a letter was sent to Pastor John Reed, not Harry Reed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report given by Treasurer Peg Grigalonis indicated there was a balance of \$7,374.96 as of February 1, 2005. Deposits amounted to \$735.87 and expenditures to \$528.41, leaving a balance of \$7,582.42 as of February 28, 2005. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Rose Flamini, seconded by Joe Flamini and unanimously accepted.

CORRESPONDENCE

Secretary Brown said a letter had been sent to Gary McGready at Careerlink asking for guidelines for the senior aide position, and that letters had been sent to William, Barbara and Martin Selgrath thanking them for establishing a memorial fund at the society on behalf of their late father and noting that \$965 had been received in donations.

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A letter was received from the Veterans Parade Committee asking if the society would like to participate in the Memorial Day Parade to be held Monday, May 30th. The society will participate. Ramon Soto will serve as chairman of the committee planning the event, and will inform the parade committee how many cars/people will participate.

Also received was a letter from the Good American Hose Company No. 3, thanking the society for its recent letter and gift. A letter was also received from the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania listing numerous historical and genealogical societies in the state.

COMMITTEES

Executive Committee

Selgrath said most of the items discussed at the Executive Committee meeting would be discussed later in the meeting.

Selgrath said Marjorie Fletcher had accepted the position as chairman of the Memorial Committee and will have a detailed report ready for the next meeting as to how funds will be handled. He said the memorial committee would be combined with the membership committee.

Grigalonis said it would be a good idea to display some of the society's pictures in the entrance room of the downtown center and that permission must be sought from Schuylkill Greenway.

Membership Committee

Eichman said four new members have joined the society since last month. Although it had been a practice to contact members who have not paid their dues in June, letters, including a membership form, were sent to 72 members who have not renewed their 2005 membership. Eichman proposed that Bill O'Brien be made a lifetime member for his many contributions to the society. A motion to this effect was made by Wagner, seconded by Richardson. Secretary Brown will send him a letter and lifetime membership card.

Curator

Eichman said the society would like to get a bankcard from the M&T Bank with a \$200 limit to be used in place of the petty cash now in the museum room.

The card would be used for extraordinary purchases, and Curator Eichman will be the only one authorized to use it. Eichman also proposed that the society get a website entitled mahanoyareahistoricalsociety.org for \$8.95 a year. A motion to get the website and bankcard was made by Grigalonis, seconded by Goodman and unanimously passed. Eichman and Selgrath will apply for the bankcard for the society.

Book Advisory Committee

The society still has about 300 historical books in inventory and Eichman believes many of them will be sold around Memorial Day and during the time of summer vacations, reunions and the borough's Community Day. Rose Flamini said in addition to Community Day, the borough's revitalization committee is planning a July Fourth celebration entitled "Mahanoy City at the Boardwalk" with amusement rides and other activities and it would be a good idea for the society to have a table to sell their books. She said you could get a table for the two days for \$15.

Artifacts

Rose Flamini said the society accessed 38 items so far this year.

Community Preservation

The \$5,000 state grant the society expects to receive will enable it to purchase 16 bronze plaques; however, Goodman said the money is not expected to arrive until December. She said she would like to erect a few plaques before the grant is received to see what they looked like.

Programs and Speakers

Selgrath said Bruce Wessner confirmed that he will speak on the Reading Railroad at the April 25th meeting. Lorraine Stanton is scheduled to speak at the June 27th meeting, and Richard Welker will talk about Lenape Indians at the August meeting. Selgrath said he had a few Victor Schertzinger movies he could show at a later date.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Soto will visit a hardware store to see what kind of hanging devices can be used for the pictures to be hung in the lobby. Soto and Eichman will concur as to what can be used.

Grigalonis said the second floor of the Mahanoy City Public Library is currently being cleaned and painted by prison inmate trustees, and she assumes the society would have to pay for lighting, heating, etc. if permission is granted to the society to store items on the library's second floor. Selgrath said he needs written confirmation soon from the library and the only thing requested from them at this time was storage space.

A grant application for funds to establish a genealogical society at the library was submitted by Grigalonis and passed the first round in the grant application process. Further information for the second round must be submitted by April 27. She said the new librarian had agreed to let the society use an area on the first floor for the genealogical center, noting a significant number of people in the United States have ties to Schuylkill County. Grigalonis said a number of volunteers would be needed for the genealogical center.

Goodman questioned whether the library could be responsible for the genealogical center instead of the historical society as it would be easier for the library to get volunteers inasmuch as it is open six days a week. She also questioned if the records center could be placed in the museum room in the event that the library does not grant permission. Eichman said the museum room would have adequate space for this project as not much space was needed.

Eichman said at this point everything hinges on a response from the library. He said he is still going ahead with his project of scanning cemetery records from St. Canicus and St. Fidelis parishes. Swing Flamini said he had a complete map of all the cemeteries that he loaned to Father Butacky at St. Casimir's Church and he will try to get it back.

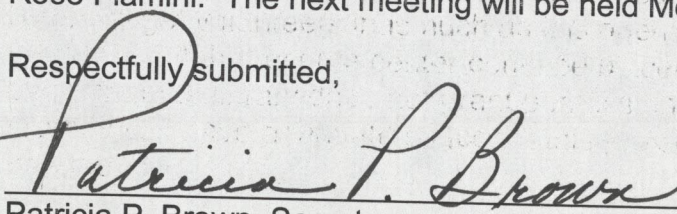
NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m. on a motion by Swing Flamini, seconded by Rose Flamini. The next meeting will be held Monday, April 25, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,


Patricia P. Brown, Secretary



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Francis Senglar
Vice President
Peg Grigalonis
Treasurer
Ray Eichman
Historian/Curator

Patricia Brown
Secretary
Elizabeth Coombe
Financial Secretary

Minutes of Monthly Meeting

April 25, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by President Frank Selgrath.

In the absence of Secretary Pat Brown, the minutes of last month's meeting were summarized by Treasurer Peg Grigalonis.

A letter was sent to Schuylkill River Heritage rescinding the society's application for grant money. Selgrath reported that there was too much undecided and unable to do to move forward with the grant application.

On a motion made by Joseph Flamini and 2nd by Dolores Wagner, a donation of \$25 will be sent to the Unico Band.

Because of the expense, an ad for spring/ summer activities tab in the Republican & Herald will not be taken.

On a motion made by Wagner and 2nd by Francis Burke, a \$50 donation will be given to the Elks Youth Activities Program, Basket Bingo. There is money in the advertising budget for this.

Rose Flamini reported that 58 artifact have been collected to be added to the 1138 previously received.

Selgrath reported that he paid a visit to Bill O'Brien, and that he is doing pretty well and is starting to take short walks.

The Memorial Plaque is on display inside the historical room. The first two brass plates are on it. The plates will cost \$15.00.

The Senior Aide program is on hold.

The post office lost approx. 75 to 100 of the newsletters recently sent. We must wait 15 days before a form can be submitted for all the zip codes known to be lost. Submitting a claim might lead to a postage reimbursement for those named in the claim.

A letter was received from the Board of Directors of the Mahanoy City Public Library agreeing to allow the society use of the second floor for storage space. Frank Selgrath, Francis Senglar, Peg Grigalonis, Pat Brown, Ray Eichman, Betty Coombe, and Rose Flamini will have access to the space. A written notice of those names will be sent to the library.

Ramon Soto reported that everything is falling into place for the Memorial Day Parade.

Joan Goodman reported that a letter is ready to go out to the first three buildings receiving a historical plaque. Those receiving plaques are: Mr. George King; First Presbyterian Church; and Mr. Michael Cheslock and Mr. Gary Senavitis. An agreement will be signed with the property owners. Grant money to pay for the plaques will be available in December.

President Selgrath reported that all correspondence will come on the society's official letter head.

Help is needed for the Mahanoy City at the Boardwalk event being planned for July 3rd. Francis Burke will attend the meeting representing the society.

The Meals on Wheels Tour is set for October.

The next meeting is set for May 23, 2005 at 7 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:27. The meeting was followed by a presentation on the early railroads by The Reading Company Technical & Historical Society.

Respectfully submitted

Leslie Richardson



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Peg Grigalonis
Treasurer
Ray Eichman
Historian/Curator

Patricia Brown
Secretary
Elizabeth Coombe
Financial Secretary

The monthly meeting of the Mahanoy Area Historical Society was held Monday, May 23, 2005 in the second-floor meeting rooms of the Mahanoy Area Downtown Center. Attending were: Frank Selgrath, Ray Eichman, Francis Senglar, Peg Grigalonis, Patricia Brown, Joan Goodman, Ramon Soto, Francis Burke, Rose Flamini, Joe Flamini, Charlotte Maurey, Jack Kubert and Dolly Wagner.

President Frank Selgrath opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a brief prayer by Ray Eichman.

MINUTES

Minutes of the March and April meetings were accepted as printed on a motion by Charlotte Maurey seconded by Rose Flamini.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report given by Treasurer Peg Grigalonis indicated there was a balance of \$7,705.28 as of April 1, 2005. Deposits amounted to \$1,691.32, which included a royalty check from Arcadia Publishing for the historical book. Expenditures amounted to \$167.64, leaving a balance of \$9,228.96 as of April 30, 2005. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Rose Flamini, seconded by Joan Goodman and unanimously accepted.

CORRESPONDENCE

Secretary Pat Brown said a letter was received from Fred W. Schumacher commending the society on its "Images of America" book and ordering five copies. Also read was a notice from the Pennsylvania Genealogical

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Partnership, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, indicating 561 newspapers had been identified in the state and a decision was made to microfilm several of them from 1873 to 1940 including the *Shenandoah Evening Herald*.

Letters were sent to Leo H. Fanelli, San Antonio, TX, thanking him for the \$1,000 donation to the Memorial Fund made in memory of the Joseph Fanelli Family, to Thomas Ward with a contribution to the UNICO Band, Elks Lodge 695 to help with expenses of its basket bingo to help with youth activities and to Richard Welker asking him to confirm that he would be speaking on the Lenape Indians at the August 29th meeting.

COMMITTEES

Executive Committee

Selgrath said most of the items discussed at the Executive Committee meeting would be discussed later in the meeting.

Membership Committee

Eichman said society membership has reached 420 and reminder letters will be sent to 40 members who have not renewed their membership for 2005.

Memorial Committee

In a written report, Chairman Marjorie Fletcher said Alphonse Peca made a \$300 donation to the Memorial Fund in honor of the Peca Family. Selgrath said money had been used from petty cash to purchase three plaques for the memorial board. Selgrath said he would like to have a memorial book kept with names of deceased society members.

Finance Committee

Bank resolution forms have been signed for the M&T Bank and the credit card being issued to the society is in progress but should take five to seven days to receive the card.

Curator

Eichman said the museum room would continue to be open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday staffed by himself, Selgrath and Peg Grigalonis. They will also be available if a request is made to visit the room on a Saturday. He also

said the Museum room's telephone will have an answering message and take messages from callers. Previously, when the museum room phone was not answered in a certain number of rings, the call transferred to another telephone in the building. Approval has been given by ARDCO to install additional slat-wall in the museum room. It was noted there were about 20 pictures to be hung.

Book Advisory Committee

Eichman said 285 historical books remain. Selgrath said thought should be given to publishing a second edition. The first book covered the borough's first 50 years, but it was the opinion of the group that the next book should include the next 25 years as there are many photos available for that time period.

Artifacts

Rose Flamini said there have been 1,222 accessions to date, some of which are collections.

Community Preservation

Joan Goodman said letters had been sent to George King, who owns the former Harrison Ball home at Main and Spruce Street, Michael Cheslock and Gary Senavitis, who own Smith Mansion, and the Presbyterian Church regarding plaques being erected on their buildings. She said she has not had a reply from the church yet, but the other two homeowners were delighted about having the plaques affixed to their properties. She said each plaque would cost \$293.40 including 10% discount plus shipping costs. A motion was made by Eichman, seconded by Grigalonis and unanimously approved that an order be entered for the first two plaques while awaiting an answer from the church.

Programs and Speakers

Lorraine Stanton, who has done considerable research on Mahanoy City, will speak at the June 27th meeting.

Special Events Committee

Rose Flamini said a number of special events are planned for the Memorial Day weekend including a community yard sale on Saturday, a car cruise on Sunday and the annual Memorial Day Parade on Monday. Francis Burke will drive his 50-year-old car in the Memorial Day Parade with magnetic signs indicating it is representing the historical society.

Selgrath said a complete list of town wide activities developed by the Downtown Revitalization Committee would be placed on a clipboard in the museum room for visitors to see. Copies will be available if requested. Grigalonis said the Schuylkill County Visitor's Bureau is seeking activities for the September to December period, which must be submitted before July, and said the information must have a telephone contact number. She said thousands of them are mailed out quarterly.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Selgrath said articles for the latest historical society newsletter must be to Lorrie Ogden by June 15. He said the newsletters would be placed in envelopes to avoid tearing them. This will allow for an extra half page of news. Because of mailing costs, newsletters will be mailed twice yearly instead of quarterly. A discussion was held on sending the newsletter to members via the Internet. Eichman said once he receives the society's credit card, he will get a website entitled "mahanoyhistory.org." It will cost \$9 to register and \$20 a month.

Jack Kubert asked if anything further had been done about restoring the Estelle Barnhart musical tapes and suggested a musical lab in Frackville that could convert the tapes to CDs. Eichman said he would follow up on it.

Grigalonis suggested the society have a book, hat, T-shirt and any other material they would like to donate for the silent basket auction being held by the Downtown Revitalization Committee for its July 3rd celebration, which will include a band concert, games of chance, food, ice cream, games and day-long music prior to the annual fireworks. Following the fireworks demonstration, there will be festivities at the Elks Club.

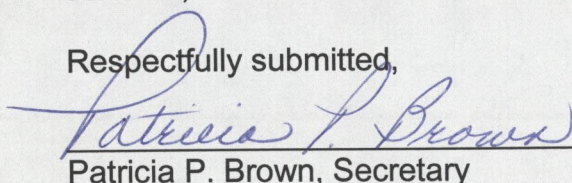
NEW BUSINESS

Selgrath said work should begin soon on the Christmas program so details can be included in the newsletter.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m. The next meeting will be held Monday, June 27, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,


Patricia P. Brown, Secretary



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The monthly meeting of the Mahanoy Area Historical Society was held Monday, July 25, 2005 in the meeting room of the Mahanoy Area Downtown Center. Attending were: Frank Selgrath, Francis Senglar, Peg Grigalonis, Patricia Brown, Betty Coombe, George Krall, Rose Flamini, Joe Flamini, Charlotte Maurey, Lois Griffiths, Phyllis Latta, Kathy Wufsus, Albert Silveri.

President Frank Selgrath opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a brief prayer.

MINUTES

Minutes of the June meeting were accepted as printed and ordered placed on file.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report given by Treasurer Peg Grigalonis was accepted on a motion by George Krall, seconded by Charlotte Maurey.

CORRESPONDENCE

Secretary Pat Brown said a letter had been sent to Lorraine Stanton thanking her for her presentation at the June meeting.

July 25, 2005
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COMMITTEES

Executive Committee

Selgrath said the Executive Committee held a very short meeting and all the matters discussed would be brought up later in the meeting.

Membership Committee

Selgrath said former members who paid dues in 2003 and 2004 but have not paid them in 2005 have been dropped from the membership rolls, and that membership now stands at 401.

Public Relations

Pat Brown said that the Pottsville Republican/Herald and Hazleton Standard Speaker had been asked to be present in the museum room at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, August 3, when a bronze plaque will be presented to the owners of Smith Mansion and the former Harrison Ball home and a representative of the First Presbyterian Church.

Curator/Historian

No report due to the absence of Curator Francis Burke and Historian Ray Eichman.

Book Advisory Committee

According to Selgrath, the society has 264 historical books on hand.

Artifacts

Chairman Rose Flamini said she had some items to be accepted into the society. Selgrath said he counted the acquisitions and 1164 had been accessioned until the end of 2004 and 128 had been accessioned so far this year for a total of 1,292 to date.

Building Committee

Francis Senglar said he and his partner would begin installing the slat wall in the museum room as soon as it arrives and expects to have the job completed within two weeks. He said the delay is that the material must be shipped in from another state. Selgrath said once the project is completed, more pictures that are currently in storage could be displayed.

Community Preservation

In the absence of committee chairman Joan Goodman, Selgrath said everything is ready for the plaque presentation to take place August. 3.

Programs and Speakers

A program on the Lenape Indians will be presented at the August 29th meeting by Richard Welker, who had discussed this subject once before at a historical society meeting and was well received. It is expected a movie by Victor Schertzinger will be shown at the October meeting.

Special Events

Selgrath said community events are posted on a clipboard in the museum room and will be updated periodically. If anyone wants a copy, they can request one.

Grigalonis said that Skitch Henderson will be appearing at Lakeside Ballroom on November 19th. She said his visit was being made possible by a grant from the National Endowment of the Arts. A total of 1,200 tickets will be available ranging in price from \$100 to \$25, depending on seating location. Henderson will make a bus tour throughout the area promoting his appearance.

Regarding the Christmas program, Grigalonis said there had been some discussion of limiting choir members to former Mahanoy City High School students and that was still not confirmed. The idea behind it was that students who were taught by the late Estelle Barnhart would be reunited for a Christmas concert.

The choral program would follow a historical program at the Welsh Church and the 6:30 p.m. lighting of the borough Christmas tree. Flamini said the Woman's Club had planned a trip to Lancaster that day and hoped they would be home in time for the society's program.

Special Committees

A nominating committee will be named at the October meeting to present a slate of officers for nomination at the November meeting, with elections scheduled for December.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Selgrath said no decision had been made whether a voice mail system or answering machine would be installed on the society's phone so that messages can be returned when there was no one present to answer the telephone. At the present time, when no one is in the museum room and the phone rings, it goes over to the building attendant.

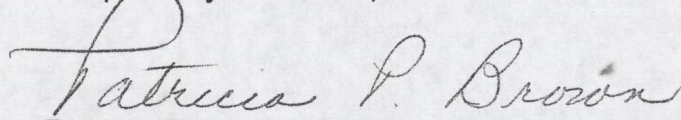
NEW BUSINESS

Kathy Wufsus asked if it would be possible to put all the coming events on the society's website to keep the public apprised of what is going on in the community. Senglar said he would be willing to put the events on the website if Ray Eichman would show him how to do it and give him the pass code.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m. on a motion by Krall. The next meeting will be held Monday, August 29, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,


Patricia P. Brown, Secretary



MAHANoy AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1-7 West Centre Street
P.O. Box 127
Mahanoy City, PA 17948
570-773-1295

mahsr@mahanoyvisitorscenter.com
www.mahanoyhistory.org
Frank Selgrath
President

Francis Senglar
Vice President
Peg Grigalonis
Treasurer
Ray Eichman
Historian

Patricia P. Brown
Secretary
Elizabeth K. Coombe
Financial Secretary
Francis Burke
Curator

The monthly meeting of the Mahanoy Area Historical Society was held Monday, September 26, 2005 the meeting rooms of the Mahanoy Area Downtown Center. Attending were: Frank Selgrath, Francis Senglar, Patricia Brown, Betty Coombe, George Krall, Rose Flamini, Joe Flamini, Lois Griffiths, Kathy Wufsus, Leslie Richardson, Dolly Wagner.

President Frank Selgrath opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a brief prayer by Ray Eichman.

MINUTES

Minutes of the August 29th meeting were accepted as printed with a suggestion by Kathy Wufsus that the named of the person – Richard Welker — who presented a program on the Lenape Indians be included in the minutes. A second to the motion to accept the minutes was made by Dolly Wagner.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report given by Financial Secretary Betty Coombe in the absence of Treasurer Peg Grigalonis was accepted on a motion by Kathy Wufsus, seconded by Swing Flamini, and filed for audit.

CORRESPONDENCE

Secretary Brown read two cards from Lois Morgan and Regina Olson, members of the First Presbyterian Church, thanking the society for the plaque recently erected on the church identifying it as the first church established in Mahanoy City.

A \$200 donation was received from the Mahanoy Township High School Alumni to help defray the costs incurred in moving the glass-encased banner from the back of the museum room to the front of the room.

Information was received on small magnetic calendars that would cost 49 cents each for 200 calendars plus another 100 free. A motion was made by George Krall and seconded by Ray Eichman to purchase 200 calendars. Eichman will try to find a suitable picture such as something depicting Mahanoy City to use on the calendar and will order them.

COMMITTEES

Executive Committee

Selgrath said the Executive Committee held a very short meeting and all the matters discussed would be brought up later in the meeting.

Membership Committee

Society membership now stands at 408. Membership dues for 2006 are now being accepted, and are \$10 for regular membership, \$5 for senior members and \$15 for a family membership.

Finance Committee

Betty Coombe said that \$1,000 from the Memorial Fund had been deposited in a CD at the M&T Bank for one year at a 4 per cent interest rate.

Public Relations Committee

Selgrath said the names of any deceased members would be added to the memorial book in the museum room.

According to Selgrath, very few people are looking at the society's website. Eichman said the problem may be Nick Yutko's site comes up as the "official" site when browsers are looking for Mahanoy Area history. It was agreed that a letter would be sent to Yutko asking him to remove the word "official" from his site. Prior to getting its own site, minutes of the historical society were posted on Yutko's site, but because he was busy, they were not posted for more than six months. Eichman said he would be willing to list any borough events on the society's website.

Selgrath said there is a move to have old Mahanoy City newspapers stored at the Mahanoy City Public Library until grant monies can be secured and the papers can be microfilmed. He said he visited the site at the old Evening Herald building and the papers are in a storage area that is very hot and causing deterioration of the papers. Pat Brown and Betty Coombe will represent the historical society at the library board's coming meeting to voice the society's support of the project and indicate that the society will be willing to help in any way it can, but, unfortunately, do not have the space to store the newspapers. He said there are 270 bound books of papers. Krall said he will talk with Mahanoy City Borough Manager Jerry Teter, who is also on the library board. Leslie Richardson said she was concerned about a liability issue, but Selgrath said no one would view the papers if they were at the library, it would simply be for storage

Curator

Selgrath said Curator Francis Burke told him remaking of the Estelle Barnhart musical tapes can be done. It was suggested by Selgrath that the tapes be sold as a fund raiser.

Eichman was told that Jean Dellock of Frackville is willing to assist him with scanning the church records of various parishes. Eichman said he will get to the rectories some time this month.

Book Advisory Committee

According to Selgrath, the society has 247 historical books on hand

Artifacts

Chairman Rose Flamini said six new artifacts had been received bringing the number to 150 artifacts documented this year.

Building Committee

Selgrath said the society is awaiting an answer from SCEC whether it would allow historical pictures to be hung in the first-floor classroom and on the corridor walls.

He also said he was told by Tom Ward that new lights were needed in the Mahanoy City and Mahanoy Township memorabilia cases and would cost about \$175. A motion was made by Eichman and Rose Flamini to order the new lighting parts.

Community Preservation

In the absence of Chairman Joan Goodman, Selgrath said the society had been assigned a number in its grant request for the plaque to be placed on West Centre Street in front of the home where Victor Schertzinger was born.

Programs and Speakers

A film directed by Victor Schertzinger's will be shown at the October 31st meeting.

Special Events

Several upcoming events were discussed including Halloween activities and the visit of the Skitch Henderson Orchestra on November 19.

Special Committees

An auditing committee will be named at the end of the year and a nominating committee will be named at the October meeting.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A motion was made by Dolly Wagner, seconded by Swing Flamini to purchase an answering machine for the museum room. Eichman was authorized to spend about \$35 on the answering machine.

NEW BUSINESS

A check for \$200 was donated to the society by Lois Griffiths from the Mary T. Comerford Estate.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. on a motion by Eichman.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia P. Brown, Secretary

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The monthly meeting of the Mahanoy Area Historical Society was held Monday, October 26, 2005 in the meeting rooms of the Mahanoy Area Downtown Center. Attending were: Frank Selgrath, Francis Senglar, Patricia Brown, Betty Coombe, Rose Flamini, Joe Flamini, Dolly Wagner, Lorie Odgen, Joan Goodman, William Brown, Francis Burke, Ray Eichman, and Evelyn Purcell.

President Frank Selgrath opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a brief prayer by Ray Eichman.

MINUTES

Minutes of the September 26th meeting were accepted as printed on a motion by Rose Flamini seconded by Swing Flamini.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report given by Treasurer Peg Grigalonis was approved on a motion by Lori Ogden, seconded by Francis Burke.

CORRESPONDENCE

Secretary Pat Brown said correspondence had been received from Keystone Insurers Group and the Westfield Group regarding the policy on the museum room that will run from December 14, 2005 to the same date in 2006. Brown said letters were sent to the Mahanoy Township High School Alumni thanking them for their \$200 donation, and to Lois Griffith thanking her for the \$200 donation from the Mary T. Comerford Estate.

A letter was also sent to Nick Yutko thanking him for his past help with the society's website and asking him to delete the word "official" from his site inasmuch as the society now has its own website. Another letter was sent to Elbur Techentin, president of the Mahanoy City Public Library, thanking him for the courtesy extended to Brown when she attended a past meeting of the library board and for agreeing to store the old Mahanoy Record newspapers on the second floor of the library and promising the historical society would help on a limited financial basis.

COMMITTEES

Executive Committee

A short meeting was held by the executive committee, Selgrath said, and asked members to get their news articles to Lori Ogden by November 11. Eichman will put a notice in the newsletter that the letter will be posted on the website in the future in an effort to save postage, but if anyone wants their letter mailed to them, they should notify the society. Selgrath said he hopes the letter can be mailed by November 15.

Membership Committee

Society membership now stands at 416, which Selgrath said was the largest membership the society ever had. He said Eichman had devised a new membership card for 2006.

Finance Committee

Grigalonis said she would be preparing the 2006 budget and requested input from any member who needs funds set aside in the budget. She said she would like to have the annual budget completed by December.

Public Relations Committee

Brown said she had sent articles to both newspapers announcing that a Victor Schertzinger movie would be shown following the October meeting and nothing was printed in either paper.

Curator

Curator Francis Burke said he had the Estelle Barnhart tapes on his computer's hard drive and they sound good, but he cannot transfer them to the CDs. He asked if anyone could offer him any technical assistance how to get the sound on the CDs.

Selgrath said he tried to fill in for Burke as room manager in staffing the museum room but there are not enough volunteers and the room is now only open on Thursday and Friday. He said he will no longer be making his weekly trip to Mahanoy City to staff the room on a Wednesday in anticipation of the winter weather.

Selgrth said the room requires a manager there three to four hours each day it is open and Burke said he did not have that much time there because of personal commitments, and if someone wanted to be the museum room manager, he was agreeable to that.

Book Advisory Committee

Selgrath said there are 196 books on hand and 26 books out for a total of 242.

Artifacts

Chairman Rose Flamini said as of October 31, there were 153 artifacts documented this year.

Building Committee

Selgrath said permission had been received from the Schuylkill County Education Council to hang pictures in the lobby hallway and they will be hung by Francis Senglar when he has time.

Community Preservation

Joan Goodman, said the society had received a letter from the Pennsylvania Department for Economic Development indicating that the society's application had been approved for \$5,000 and the money would soon be forthcoming. This money is for the three bronze markers that have been erected and future markers. The marker for Victor Schertzinger will, hopefully, come from another grant.

Programs and Speakers

Grigalonis said tickets are available for Skitch Henderson's "Tribute to the Dorseys on November 19. The couple who visited this area last year researching ethnic customs will present a talk on their coming book at 7 p.m. Thursday, November 10, at the Mahanoy City Elks to which the public is invited. The couple told Grigalonis there are more ethnic customs in Schuylkill County than they found in the European countries.

Jean Dellock of Frackville, will be the speaker at the February meeting.

Special Events

The society's Christmas program will be held November 26th in conjunction with the borough's annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony. Grigalonis said a program will be held at 7 p.m. in the Welsh Baptist Church followed by a Welsh tea at the Elks Club where the Mahanoy City Alumni Choir will be the featured entertainment. The cost is \$15 per person. Tickets can be obtained from Kathy Wufsus, Rose Flamini or Grigalonis.

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Special Committees

Named to the nominating committee to prepare a slate of officers for the November meeting were Rose and Swing Flamini and Dolly Wagner. Elections will be held in December. An auditing committee will be named at the end of the year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Eichman said he tried to have a local design put on the 2006 calendars the society is purchasing, but it would be too costly so he decided to have a flag design put on them. The calendars are expected to arrive by November 15.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

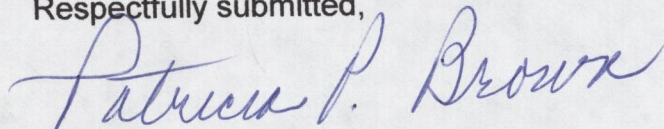
ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m. on a motion by Wagner, seconded by Rose Flamini. The next meeting will be held November 28, and there will be no program following the meeting.

PROGRAM

Following the meeting the film "One Night of Love" starring Jimmy Cagney and directed by former Mahanoy City resident Victor Schertzinger was shown.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia P. Brown, Secretary

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Financial Secretary
Francis Burke
Curator

The monthly meeting of the Mahanoy Area Historical Society was held Monday, November 28, 2005 in the meeting rooms of the Mahanoy Area Downtown Center. Attending were: Frank Selgrath, Patricia Brown, Betty Coombe, Rose Flamini, Joe Flamini, Dolly Wagner, Joan Goodman, Francis Burke, Ray Eichman, Ramon Soto, Kathy Wufsus, William Brown, George Krall, and Peg Grigalonis.

President Frank Selgrath opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a brief prayer by Ray Eichman.

MINUTES

Minutes of the October 26th meeting were accepted as printed on a motion by George Krall seconded by Kathy Wufsus. Pat Brown noted the September minutes indicated the society was seeking grant funds to erect a memorial marker in front of the home of the late Victor Schertzinger when the grant request is actually for the other plaques being placed at various historic sites in the community. She said the correction was made before the minutes were sent to Eichman to put on the society's website.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report given by Treasurer Peg Grigalonis was approved on a motion by Rose Flamini seconded by Francis Burke and will be filed for audit.

CORRESPONDENCE

Secretary Pat Brown said at the request of Patrice Rader a letter was sent to Lenwood Sloan of the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development expressing support to the coming Labor Day celebrations to be held in the upper Schuylkill communities.

COMMITTEES

Executive Committee

The items discussed at the executive committee meeting will be discussed later in the meeting, said Selgrath.

Membership Committee

A written report submitted by Marjorie Fletcher, chairperson of the Memorial Fund Committee, indicated the committee would like to honor those members of the historical society who have passed away by placing their names on a plaque to be erected in the museum room. Fletcher said should the membership agree with this decision, someone will have to go through the records to determine the deceased members of the society from the time of its inception. A motion was made by Rose Flamini seconded by Grigalonis and unanimously accepted to approve Fletcher's report.

Selgrath said he recently received minutes from the society from its inception and noted there was a \$200 donation to the general fund by a relative of Theresa McCord, a society member. He said a decision will have to be made as to whether the money should be taken from the general fund and placed in the memorial fund. Elizabeth Coombe said there was a balance of \$1,428.14 in the memorial fund of which \$1,000 is in a certificate of deposit. A motion was made by Wufsus, seconded by Dolly Wagner to accept the memorial committee report.

Finance Committee

Grigalonis said the 2006 budget will be presented at the December 19th meeting and asked any member who needed funds to discuss it with her.

Public Relations Committee

Brown said a sympathy card had been sent to the family of the late Mayor Michael DiBaggio. Selgrath said there had been 1801 hits on the society's website and there were a few messages, all complimentary. Selgrath said the museum room had received several requests from people tracing their genealogy and he tries to help as much as possible by looking in the directory and using ancestry.com. He said there was an interesting article in the recent NARFE magazine on tracing ancestry and he said he would place a copy of the magazine in the museum room.

Curator

Burke said he purchased a computer program which, hopefully, will allow him to transfer the Estelle Barnhart tapes to CDs. Eichman said there are musical selections on the tapes that belong to someone other than Barnhart.

Book Advisory Committee

Book sales are slow, Selgrath said, noting there are 241 books on consignment or in the museum room. Wufsus said she sold one of the four books she had.

Artifacts

As of November 28th, there have been 156 accessions this year said Chairman Rose Flamini. She said she was invited to go through the belongings of Bernice Narrow, a borough resident and the first female ambulance driver. Her family operated a jewelry store from the 1800s in Mahanoy City and Tamaqua. Flamini said one of the items she would like to get was an army uniform.

Kathy Wufsus presented a copy of a map showing all the railroads in the Lehigh Valley given to her by Leo Walters of Delano. Selgrath asked if she could get Walters to speak at the society's April 2006 meeting.

Building Committee

Selgrath said he is waiting to get the pictures hung in the building's first floor hallway. He said he and Dolly Wagner folded all the newsletters and put them in envelopes for mailing..

Community Preservation

Joan Goodman, said the society had received a letter from the Pennsylvania Department for Economic Development indicating that the society's application had been approved for \$5,000 and the money would soon be forthcoming. This money is for the three bronze markers that have been erected and future markers. The marker for Victor Schertzinger will, hopefully, come from another grant.

Special Committees

Selgrath said he will ask Lois Griffiths and Evelyn Purcell to serve on the auditing committee. Selgrath said there are a few little changes that should be made to the by-laws and that will be discussed early in 2006. A motion to amend the by-laws was made by Joan Goodman seconded by Peg Grigalonis.

Nominating Committee

Rose Flamini said she spoke with all the current officers and they are willing to serve for another term. However, Elizabeth Coombe will be nominated for treasurer and Peg Grigalonis for financial treasurer, which is a shift in positions. Flamini read the name and office of each person three times and asked if there were any nominations from the floor. She said a ballot will be prepared for the December meeting when officers will be elected. Nominations may be made from the floor that evening. The nominating committee report was accepted on a motion by Joan Goodman, seconded by Ray Eichman.

Special Events

A report on the Christmas program was given by Grigalonis. She said it was very successful and 47 people attended accounting for income of \$705. She said \$102 was spent on food and suggested \$150 be given to the local Elks Club where the meal and program were held and \$200 to the Zion Baptist Church where the church program was held, leaving a balance of \$252. The report was accepted on a motion by Rose Flamini seconded by Swing Flamini.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Selgrath said he had received two more scrapbooks from the granddaughter of Victor Schertzinger and an film industry Oscar. Goodman said she received a grant application from the Pennsylvania Museum and Historical Commission and will work on the application that must be submitted by December 15th of this year.

Swing Flamini said his high school class would like to donate its treasury to the historical society or its memorial fund.

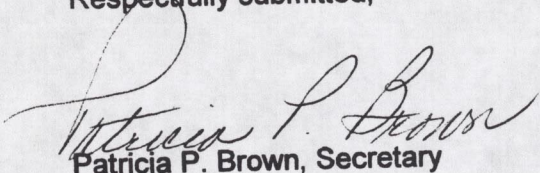
NEW BUSINESS

Congratulations were extended to member George Krall who was named mayor of Mahanoy City to fill the unexpired term of the late Michael DiBaggio.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m. on a motion by Goodman, seconded by Swing Flamini. The next meeting will be held Monday, December 19, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,


Patricia P. Brown, Secretary