

Grafton Historical Society

Annual Meeting

October 5, 2023

4:00 PM

Grafton Public Library Upper Level Conference Room

Minutes

- I. Introduction:** No members-at-large were present to introduce to the board. The last annual meeting was October, 2021. Annual meetings will be scheduled in April of each year going forward.
- II. Mission Statement:** The Mission statement was reviewed and is stated as the "Collection", "Preservation" and "Sharing" of materials and information relating to the history of the Greater Grafton Area.
- III. Purpose of the Annual Meeting:** The purpose of the annual meeting is to report to the general membership our activities and to hold the election of officers.
- IV. Board of Directors Election:** We added two additional board positions for a total of 10 board members. Four members are up for re-election: Tom Krueger, Nick Schanen, Debbie Krueger, and Ann Murray. Darrel Blank and John Gassert have made a verbal request to join the Board of Directors for the two additional Board positions.
- V. Annual Report:**
 - I. Activities:** We currently have \$4,544.49 in our checking account. President Tom Krueger summarized donations for 2022 and 2023. Current membership is 49 members. Our website has been updated. We are in the process of finding a webmaster to keep the website up-to-date. We have a computer which was donated to the club by Jean Steinke and have purchased Past Perfect software for archiving. We plan to start digitizing our archives. Darrel Blank has offered to learn Past Perfect software and will do archiving with the new software. We are in the process of moving our historical artifacts to a new area in the lower level of the library.
 - II. Programming:** We have had seven program presentations since 2021. The programs have been successful with excellent attendance. We have a program scheduled for October 26, 2023.
 - III. Newsletter:** We have been publishing a quarterly newsletter which is sent to membership and other nonmembers who have expressed interest in receiving the newsletter. A newsletter is planned for this fall and will include an article on the history of the Grafton State Bank.
 - IV. Special Projects:** We have been able to expand cabinet space in the upper level conference room of the library to display selected artifacts. We worked with Port Washington State Bank to provide them with historical pictures for their lobby renovation. We have updated our membership brochure. We continue to sell the Images of America: Grafton books. We continue to conduct oral interviews and have done five interviews over the past year along with seven interviews the previous year. We submit historical pictures of Grafton for the Scenes From the Past section of The News Graphic Newspaper. Tom has been searching for a physical location to house the Grafton Historical Society. Possible locations include a space downtown previously occupied by a laundromat, the old Grafton Town Hall building and the Timothy Wooden building adjacent to the library. Tom will be talking to Lester Bartel about leasing space in the new Grafton Town Hall building.

- V. Goals for the Future:** We are looking to secure sources of steady revenue as opposed to one time grants. We would like to increase our membership with emphasis on members who would like to be active in the organization. Tom commented that in his research on Historical Societies in other communities, the main source of income was from donors who donate on an annual basis, both individuals and businesses. They also invite major donors to be on the executive board of the society. We have a Paramount Blues committee but now need someone to take leadership of that committee. We would like to create a standing display for the Paramount Blues and if possible, resume the annual blues festival.
- VI. Board of Directors Election:** There are six nominees for board positions. They are Tom Krueger, Debbie Krueger, Nick Schanen, Ann Murray, Darrel Blank and John Gassert. Tom asked if there are names of any other people interested in being on the board. None were offered. Dave Antoine moved that the six people be elected to the board and Jean Steinke seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the six people were elected by unanimous vote.

New Board of Directors Meeting

October 5, 2023

4:45 PM

Grafton Public Library Upper Level Conference Room

Minutes

- I. Call to Order:** The Meeting was called to order at 4:45 PM
- II. Roll Call:** Tom Krueger, John Krueger, Jean Steinke, Dave Antoine, Darrel Blank. Excused: Nick Schanen, Ann Murray, Debbie Krueger
- III. Election of Principal Officers:** Dave Antoine made a motion to elect the same officers to their positions from the previous year. Jean Steinke seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.
- IV. Adjourn:** Dave Antoine made a motion to adjourn. Darrel Blank seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 PM.

Grafton Historical Society
Board of Directors/Membership Meeting

October 5, 2023

Grafton Public Library Upper Level Conference Room

Minutes

- I. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by President Tom Krueger at 4:50 PM
 - I. Attendance:** Tom Krueger, John Krueger, Jean Steinke, Dave Antoine, Darrel Blank.
Excused: Nick Schanen, Ann Murray, Debbie Krueger
 - II. President's Comments:** Tom commented on "Walk of Fame Inductees" on August 17, 2023. The Grafton Historical Society had a full page article in the News Graphic on August 24, 2023 which included an interview with Tom and coverage of our presentation of Wisconsin Supper Clubs.
 - III. Approval of Minutes:** There was a motion by Dave to approve minutes and seconded by Tom Krueger. Minutes were approved.
 - IV. Treasurer's Report:** John presented the Treasurer's Report. We currently have a checking account balance of \$7,544.49. Since the start of our fiscal year in January, we have \$180 in book sales. We have a corporate donation from Bank 5 Nine of \$1000 and individual donations of \$673. We had income from dues of \$1,230, business expenses of \$145, operations expenses of \$2,496, and other expenses of \$778.
 - V. Committee Reports:**
 - I. Membership:** Nothing to report.
 - II. IT/Website:** We are still looking for someone to take over the website and keep it updated.
 - III. PR/Promotions:** Dave Antoine will distribute posters advertising our upcoming presentation. Tom may not be able to make the next presentation and will assign someone to introduce the speaker.
 - IV. Archiving:** Jean Steinke will work with Nick Schanen to start entering information into Past Perfect. Jean will need a donation receipt for tax purposes on the computer she donated. John will send her a thank you note on Historical Society Letterhead.
 - V. Oral Interviews:** Jean will develop a release form to allow us to put interviews on our website. Jean will send a list of prospective interviewees. Tom discussed having a professional company create a documentary using our oral interviews. TB Productions out of Cedarburg is a company that could do that. We may want to research costs of production and then apply for a grant to cover the costs.
 - VI. Newsletter:** Debbie Krueger will work on a fall newsletter.
- Old Business:**
- I. Update on banner use for cabinet display:** Grafton Library approved use of our banner for display in the upper level conference room. There are three four-drawer filing cabinets that contain historical articles. Public works will bring the cabinets to our new storage space in the lower level of the library.

II. Update on Archive Storage: Tom attended a library board meeting. No action was taken on our space downstairs. They extended our time to use library space until January 1, 2025. After that we will have to find a new space. There is no charge for us to use the storage space.

III. Discussion of future space: We negotiated a move to an area adjacent to our previous space and we have twice as much space as previously.

VII. New Business:

I. Tom talked to Jesse Thyges about giving the Grafton Historical Society an annual appropriation in the Village Budget. Jesse declined for this year and wants more specific information to justify a specific line item.

II. Posting agendas and minutes: It was agreed that agendas should be posted on our website prior to meetings and minutes be posted to the website.

III. Acquiring old Ozaukee Press issues: John Hansen had been saving old issues of Ozaukee Press and The News Graphic. Amanda does not want keep them on the assumption that the newspapers archive old issues themselves. Tom suggested that we take possession of these newspapers and store them in our space in the lower library.

IV. Policy on personal costs for snacks at presentations: Darrel Blank suggested that we advertise a suggested donation to cover some of the costs of providing a speaker and snacks at our presentations. Tom suggested that we ask for \$5 donation which would be voluntary.

V. Next Board Meeting: November 2 at 4 PM

VI. Adjourn: Darrel Blank made a motion to adjourn and Jean Steinke seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM