POLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY : Minutes of Meeting June 2, 2022

\*\*\*\*\* THE NEXT MEETING IS THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 2022 AT 7PM \*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\* OPEN HOUSE : SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 2022 Noon til 4pm to display the 1953 Aerial Photo Mosaic \*\*\*\*\*

1) Pat spoke of his plans to hold a Genealogy Workshop on Saturday, June 4, 2022.

UPDATE : The Workshop was held but attendance was low.

2) The Museum will be open every Friday in June, July & August from 1pm-4pm. Volunteers are Pat Moening, Louise Roberts & Jack Rozos.

UPDATE : Visitors to the Museum have been small in number. The Museum did not open on July 8 due to illness; Pat had 7 visitors on July 15 and 6 visitors on July 29.

Town Manager, Matt Garside, suggested that we reach out to the summer camps and campgrounds in the area and issue flyers announcing the Museum hours. He commented that a trip to the Museum could be a "rainy day event" for some people.

3) Pat shared his plans to create and display an "Aerial Mosaic Photo" of Poland from 1953 aerial photos by James W Sewall & Company.

UPDATE : The Aerial Mosaic Photo will be displayed at an Open House event at the Museum on Saturday, August 13th from Noon til 4pm. Viewers will get a birdseye view of 88 square miles of our region and the changes that have taken place in 69 years. See the complete write-up on the Town of Poland's website and calendar.

4) Tribute to Sonny Chipman : It was suggested that the Historical Society make a presentation to the Chipman family at Sonny's memorial service to be held on Saturday, July 9th. A plaque was suggested with an image of Sonny & Mary Chipman.

UPDATE : Jack contacted Ron Chipman and we had difficulty securing a quality picture suitable for the plaque. Lewiston Sun-Journal provided a digital copy of a photo which appeared in a feature article on Sonny among his strawberry fields back on May 31, 2000. Time was short and we decided to delay recognition at this time. A suggestion was made to honor Sonny and other founding members of PHS at an event to coincide with Heritage Day (September 17th). This will be an Agenda item at the next Meeting on August 4th.

5) We are looking for someone to serve as Clerk of the Historical Society. The Clerk is responsible for taking the minutes of our meetings. If you are interested and available, please speak with Pat.

6) David Tedford provided a copy of the "History of the Poland Historical Society" as presented by him at a PHS meeting on October 19, 2005. The Poland Historical Society was established on October 18, 1995. Charter members were : Ruby Tripp, Beverly Tripp, Jeanette Tedford, Phyllis Smith, Donald Winslow, William Holt, Bill & Lynn Eldridge, Ellsworth "Sonny" Chipman, Allison Strout, Arthur Greeley, Glen Torrey, Ballard & Patricia Nash, Emily Croxford, Karen Renard and David Tedford. Copies of Dave's presentation will be available at the PHS meeting on August 4th. David has researched and updated the names of the Society's Presidents. Elliott Levy served as President in 2006; Fred Huntress served as President from 2006 - 2010; Sonny Chipman served as President from 2010 until his death in 2022. We will update the plaque which hangs on the wall in the Schoolhouse with their names.

UPDATE : Founding member Patricia "Pat" Nash passed away on June 19, 2022. A Memorial Service was held at the All Souls Chapel on June 23, 2022.

7) It was suggested that a Guest Book be purchased for Museum visitors to sign. It's also a good way to compute the number of visitors to the Museum.

8) Oral Histories were gathered by Rose Aikman about 10 years ago. The tape recordings should be stored in the Museum somewhere (but I haven't found them yet). Can anyone help ? If you have a tape player to donate to the Museum, we will renew interest in the Oral Histories by playing them at subsequent meetings.

9) Yearbooks from Poland Regional High School are kept at the Museum. We need to conduct an inventory to determine if any are missing.

UPDATE : Jack contacted the new Principal of Poland Regional High School, Erik Anderson. The High School was established 23 years ago, but he is unsure when the first class of seniors graduated from the new building. He will confirm when the first PHRS Yearbook was printed. Louise has contacted the Mechanic Falls Historical Society and has confirmed that they maintain a collection of yearbooks from Mechanic Falls High School.

10) Poland Town Reports are kept at the Museum. Duplicate copies are available for sale at $ 1.

\*\*\*\*\* Our next meeting is August 4th. We will discuss if a Heritage Day event is possible at the Schoolhouse Museum on September 17th and what should it be. We are asking for volunteers to provide refreshments at the Open House event on August 13th. \*\*\*\*\*

Respectfully submitted,

JACK ROZOS