




Historic QUAKERTOWN

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October 2021 Newsletter

GHOST TOURS



Proceeds benefit
Quakertown
Historical
Society



October 22nd & 23rd
6pm-9pm & 8pm-11pm
October 24th
6pm-9pm
\$40 per person limit of 12 people per time
slot, advance sales only.
Watch previous evidence found at McCooles'
followed by a real time 2 hour long
investigation of 2 historic buildings, you are
welcome to bring your own devices there will
be a limited amount available to borrow.

Dear Members,

Reservations for the Ghost Tours are going quickly. October 22, 2021 is completely sold out. Reservations for October 23, 2021 are still being taken for the 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM timeframe and the 8:00 PM to 11:00 PM timeframes. There are still a few reservations available for the 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM timeframe on October 24, 2021. You can make reservations by going to the website located at www.QuakertownHistoricalSociety.org/events.

It continues to be the goal of the Board to have a regular membership meeting but, because of the lingering effects of the pandemic, a meeting will probable not be held until the spring of 2022.

Annual Meeting Minutes

Following are the minutes from the Annual Meeting held on September 22, 2021.

Minutes
Quakertown Historical Society
Annual Meeting
McCoole's Arts & Events Place
10 S. Main Street
Quakertown PA 18951
September 22, 2021

The meeting was called to order by President Christina Landis at 7:35 PM.

There were 11 members present which represented a quorum.

On a motion by Steve Biddle and seconded by Jim Lukens, the Minutes of the Annual Meeting on September 30, 2020 were approved as distributed. (copy attached)

On a motion by Jack Schick and seconded by Steve Biddle, the Auditor's Reports for 7-1-19 thru 6-30-20 and 7-1-20 thru 6-30-21 were accepted. (copies attached)

Treasurer Bob Roth presented the following Treasurer's Report:

Opening Balance July 1, 2020	\$8467.75
Closing Balance June 30, 2021	\$7458.82
Receipts	\$3045.65
Expenditures	\$4054.58

A grant in the amount of \$3000.00 was awarded to the Society in April 2021 from the Upper Bucks Community Foundation to be used for the labeling of items displayed in the Burgess Foulke House, The Museum, and Liberty Hall. .

The Society has no indebtedness.

On a motion by Evelyn Gerhart and seconded by Bob Leight, the Treasurer's Report was accepted.

Secretary Bob Roth presented the following Board Report:

The Board met 6 times between July 2020 and June 2021.

Election of Officers took place on September 20, 2020

President – Christina Landis

Vice-President – Jack Schick

Secretary/Treasurer – Bob Roth

The following Board Committees met on an as needed basis:

Events & Fundraising, Property & Maintenance, Archives & Display, Finance, Public Relations, Membership, and Strategic Planning.

The Property & Maintenance Committee presented a list of needed repairs for Burgess Foulke House and Liberty Hall to Quakertown Borough Manager Scott McElree.

Twelve newsletters were created and distributed between July 2020 and June 2021.

Victoria Blackmore resigned from the Board of Directors on 7-6-21.

The number of directors was set at 8 at the Board Meeting on 9-8-21.

Due to Covid-19, no Membership Meetings were held.

On a motion by Darwin Gerhart and seconded by Carol Roth, the Board Report was accepted.

Christina Landis gave a report on the accomplishments of the Society for fiscal year 2020-2021 and shared plans for the Society for fiscal year 2021-2022.

A copy of the Nominating Committee Report was previously distributed to the membership. (copy attached)

On a motion by Bob Roth and seconded by Jack Schick, nominations were closed.

Jan Hench, Christina Landis, Jim Lukens, and Jack Schick were unanimously elected to three-year terms on the Board of Directors.

President Landis appointed Torry Hinkle, Maureen Potsko, and Evelyn Gerhart to serve on the Audit Committee.

Bob Leight gave a presentation on the possibility of a marker being placed at Liberty Hall. He will make the needed request to the State. The Society agreed to endorse the effort to have such a marker placed.

On a motion by Bob Roth and seconded by Carol Roth, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Roth, Secretary/Treasurer

Minutes
Quakertown Historical Society
Annual Meeting
McCoole's Arts & Events Place
10 S. Main Street
Quakertown PA 18951
Facebook
September 30, 2020

The meeting was called to order by President Christina Landis at 7:37 PM.

There were twelve members present which represented a quorum.

On a motion by Bob Roth and seconded by Carol Roth, the September 12, 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes, as previously distributed, were amended to change the opening balance date on the Treasurer's Report from July 1, 2019 to July 1, 2018.

The September 12, 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes, as amended, were accepted on a motion by Danielle Bodnar and seconded by Vicky Blackmore. (copy attached)

On a motion by Vicky Blackmore and seconded by Jim Lukens, the Auditor's Report was accepted. (copy attached)

Treasurer Bob Roth presented the following Treasurer's Report:
Opening Balance July 1, 2019 \$7564.02

Closing Balance June 30, 2020 \$8467.75

Receipts \$9280.43

Expenditures \$8376.70

A grant in the amount of \$3000.00 was awarded to the Society by Visit Bucks County to be used to promote tourism.

The Society has no indebtedness.

On a motion by Vicky Blackmore and seconded by Jack Schick, the Treasurer's Report was accepted.

Secretary Bob Roth presented the following Board Report:

The Board met 9 times between July 2019 and September 2020.

Election of Officers took place on September 12, 2019

President – Christina Landis

Vice-President – Jack Schick

Secretary/Treasurer – Bob Roth

Shawna Serpe resigned from the Board on December 4, 2019

Steve Biddle was added to the Board on February 5, 2020

The following Board Committees met on an as needed basis:

Events & Fundraising, Property & Maintenance, Archives & Display, Finance, Public Relations, Membership and Strategic Planning

The Property & Maintenance Committee presented a list of needed repairs for Burgess Foulke House and Liberty Hall to Quakertown Borough Manager Scott McElree.

Seven newsletters were created and distributed between July 2019 and September 2020.

Due to Covid-19, only one Membership Meeting was held on November 14, 2019. A presentation was made by Historical Recovery Services.

On a motion by Vicky Blackmore and seconded by Jan Hensch, the Board Report was accepted.

Vicky Blackmore made a presentation of Society accomplishments during the year and goals for the coming year. (copy attached)

A copy of the Nominating Committee Report was previously distributed to the membership. (copy attached)

Christina Landis reported that Lyn Treffinger resigned from the Board on September 20, 2020 and she will not stand for re-election to the Board.

Steve Potsko was nominated from the floor by Steve Biddle.

On a motion by Bob Roth and seconded by Jack Schick, nominations were closed.

Bob Roth and Steve Potsko were unanimously elected to three-year terms on the Board of Directors.

President Landis appointed Torry Hinkle, Maureen Potsko and Laura Candia to serve on the Audit Committee.

President Landis reminded the membership that there is a Market Days fundraiser scheduled for October 17, 2020 and that volunteers are still needed.

Due to technical difficulties, only a portion of the meeting was on Facebook.

On a motion by Vicky Blackmore and seconded by Jack Schick, the meeting was adjourned at 7:51 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Roth, Secretary/Treasurer



Board Members

Christina Landis, President
Jack Schick, Vice-President
C. Robert Roth, Secretary/Treasurer
Stephen Biddle
Victoria Blackmore
Danielle Bodnar
Jan Hench
James Lukens
Stephan Potsko



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October 27, 2020

Report of the Audit Committee for Fiscal Year 7-1-19 thru 6-30-20

The Audit Committee, this date, met in the office of the Historical Society to audit the financial records for the period shown above. We found the records for the year to be accurate and in order.


Torry Hinkle, Chairman


Laura Candia



Board Members

Christina Landis, President
Jack Schick, Vice President
C. Robert Roth, Secretary/Treasurer
Jan Hench
Jim Lukens
Steve Potsko
Danielle Bodnar
Steve Biddle



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September 16, 2021

To whom it may concern,

We the Audit Committee have examined the financial records of the Quakertown Historical Society for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021 and are satisfied that the records accurately reflect the financial activity for the year.

Respectfully,

2021 Quakertown Historical Society Audit Committee

Torry Hinkle

Maureen Potsko

Nominating Committee Minutes
Unanimous Consent
August 13, 2021

By Unanimous Consent, the Board of Directors of the Quakertown Historical Society nominate for election at the Annual Meeting on September 22, 2021:

Jan Hench – Three-year Term

Christina Landis – Three-year Term

Jim Lukens – Three-year Term

Jack Schick-Three-year Term

Bob Roth
Secretary/Treasurer

Merrill's Candy Store

By Linda Rush Blead

How did the store come to be named Merrill's? I remember a Tastee Candy store sign, but no one used that designation; it was always Merrill's at 7th & Juniper Streets. My parents, Merrill and Peg (her given name was Marguerite) opened the luncheonette when I was approximately one year old and my brother, Barry, was eight. The "store", as we referred to it, was on the ground floor and our living quarters were on the second floor, which was quite spacious.

Initially the store was open six days a week from 9:00 AM to 10:00 PM and Sunday morning. It was not unusual for a neighbor to ring our doorbell when the store was closed because they needed milk or bread. My parents never complained. Because of the many hours the store was open for business, neighbors that were looking for a friendly place to work and gain some additional household money worked there part-time.

One that I especially remember was Mary Dietz. She was a hard worker and always friendly to everyone. Her children gained recognition in school for their athletic abilities. Another neighbor that worked there was Joy Rantz.

The menu was typical in that hamburgers, hot dogs, steak sandwiches and a variety of other sandwiches were offered along with sodas, milkshakes, ice cream and sundaes. During the summer, when the school children were taking their finals, the "rickies" served in a tall frosted glass were a popular cold drink during the hot weather.

For many years, school students could leave the grounds (of the school) for lunch. This allowed many of the students to come for lunch at Merrill's. Lunchtime was crazy for that short period of the day! Merrill prepared many hamburgers and hot dogs in advance, and early in the morning, before the store opened for business, my mother had prepared all the different flavors of drinks offered in addition to the bottled sodas, one of which was Moxie.

There was a period when I was young, that cokes were made by using 1 squirt of coke syrup for a small soda or 2 squirts for a large soda from the soda fountain behind the counter, with seltzer fizz added. During the winter when the flu was going around neighbors would buy just the coke syrup to ease their stomach discomfort.

My job was to sell the candy bars and penny candies. The ice cream was hand-dipped and the pretzels were sold by the pound from a large tin container. There was a short period when some kids experimented with the wrappers on the straws, dipping them in mustard or ketchup, blowing through the straw and shooting the wrappers to the ceiling where they would stick until my dad had to use a stepladder to clean the ceiling. Needless to say, he put a stop to that entertainment.

Anyone with memories of the store will always comment on the dark, white and milk chocolate candy, with mouthwatering delights of creams, nuts and caramels, along with chocolate covered pretzels. The busiest times were the holidays – Easter, Christmas and Valentine's Day. My dad had many different metal molds of bunnies, eggs, etc.

He outdid himself with his chocolate Easter creations that he began making in January in the basement. He worked until 1:00 AM to prepare for that holiday. People came from a great distance to buy the chocolate candy to give as gifts. Local churches ordered one-pound boxes of mixed chocolates to give to members. All the boxes were packed by hand by family members. My mother would drive to Reading to purchase the large bulk pieces of chocolate my dad melted for the candy. He also made different kinds of nut brittles that were made in a large copper kettle over the stove, then poured onto a thick marble table to cool. When it cooled, he wore gloves and broke it into pieces to be sold by the pound.

One of my memories was of a woman that periodically came into the store for something to eat. She could not pay but my parents would give her food. It seemed to me at the time that she would show up on a somewhat regular basis and my dad spoke to her in Pennsylvania German, which some people called Pennsylvania Dutch. She always wore layers of dark clothing and appeared somewhat unkempt.

I was always frightened of her because I thought she was a witch. No one ever explained her situation to me, but I often wondered what happened to her. Robert Leight wrote a wonderful article about her that answered my questions. My parents always referred to her as Alice.

I am not sure just when my dad stopped talking to some of the customers in Pennsylvania Dutch. I guess it was because the elderly customers no longer frequented the store and the language was dying out. I don't remember my mother speaking the language, but it was my paternal grandparents, Mabel and Mahlon, that spoke the language to each other when they were at home. They ran the restaurant in the Bush House on Broad Street in Quakertown.