

BAILEYS HARBOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2010

P.O. Box 336
BAILEYS HARBOR, WI
54202

baileyshhs@hotmail.com

INTERIM OFFICERS

-Roy Cole
President
-Rozanna Gerdman
Vice-President
-Kristen Peil
Secretary
-Mary Moran
Treasurer

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Barbara Anschutz
Suzanne Bauldry
Roy Cole
Leann Despotes
Rozanna Gerdman
Steve Hey
Lynn Mattke
Kristen Peil
Carol Schmidt

2010 MEETINGS

TOWN HALL
MAY 15TH
2:00PM
JULY 14TH
SEPTEMBER 16TH
NOVEMBER 11TH
7:00 PM

MEMBERSHIP

Please submit form
at the bottom of page
2.



BEGINNINGS

In June, 2009, the Town Board established a temporary Historical Committee to address the possible purchase of the McArdle house, and to evaluate similar opportunities as they may arise in the future. There was also a stated desire to establish a town historical society that would be a separate entity, and not a committee of the town government.

Several interested citizens volunteered to participate in this committee, and considerable progress has been made. After completing an opinion survey of property owners, evaluating other possible purchases, and considering the long-range ramifications of maintaining and operating such a site, it was decided that it

would be premature to purchase a property at this time.

Nonetheless, the members were committed to establishing an "official" local historical society that would be associated with and recognized by the Wisconsin Historical Society. Fortunately, Roy Cole, who has had significant experience with another Wisconsin historical society was a member of the committee, and provided guidance as well as many hours of work in the development of bylaws, establishing our status as a non-profit entity, structuring the committee appropriately, and affiliating with the Wisconsin Historical Society. The interim officers and Organizing Committee are listed at the left.

EVERY TOWN HAS A STORY

On August 20, 2009, Rick Bernstein from the Wisconsin Historical Society addressed the BHHS to discuss ways in which a local history group can provide a meaningful contribution to the community. He responded to our questions about possible sites, and areas of local history we might consider for research. Baileys Harbor's rich history includes lumbering, limestone production, fishing, farming, Great Lakes commerce, the conservation/ecology movement, the arts, and tourism as well as the pioneer families who wrested a living from an often difficult environment.

To get a taste of Baileys Harbor history, check out the display windows at the Town Hall. Discover who built the grotto at the town cemetery and see an actual Peninsula Cigar Company cigar. Yes, Baileys Harbor was once the home of the Peninsula Cigar Company! Glimpse life in the early 1900's by viewing artifacts that were uncovered within the walls of a 100+ year old home located in Baileys Harbor.

THE BIRDCAGE LIGHTHOUSE DONATION

Mr. Gerrit Ailt of Washington State donated a photograph album and other memorabilia associated with the birdcage lighthouse (1849?) located across the harbor. This was the first Baileys Harbor lighthouse, and one of the few remaining of its type in the country. It has been privately owned since it was divested by the Coast Guard. Mr. Ailt's family formerly owned the property, and he generously donated his collection to the BHHS. It shows the condition and subsequent repairs his family did, great views, as well as some aspects of vacation life at the birdcage. Mr. Ailt graciously allowed a video interview and shared many interesting memories of summers visiting Baileys Harbor. This archive is currently being safeguarded by the Town Clerk.



HISTORIC WATERCOLOR RECEIVED

An original watercolor of the now demolished Toft Point Lodge, painted in 1958 by Rev. Vern Hohl of Saugatuck, Michigan, was donated by Nancy Larson of Madison, Wisconsin. This excellent rendering of one of our historic landmarks is currently available for viewing in the Baileys Harbor Library.

JOIN US!
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
BAILEYS HARBOR TOWN HALL
MAY 15, 2010 2:00 PM

ADMISSION FREE — REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

Program:

- Bill Tishler will discuss the Frogtown Art Colony in Baileys Harbor
- Recognition of Mary Anne Johnson's achievement in local history

Baileys Harbor Historical Society Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

_____/we would be interested in volunteer activities.

\$15-Member

\$25-Family

\$50-Business

\$150-Lifetime

Mail to Box 336, Baileys Harbor, WI 54202, or bring to the meeting on May 15, 2010.