

Unapproved Minutes for the November 10, 2025, Board Meeting Old-Brule Heritage Society ~ Amnicon Town Hall

The November 10, 2025, meeting was called to order by President Jim Mattson at 6:01 p.m.

Roll call was taken Jim Mattson, Jackie Plunket, Ron Hendrickson, Brian Paulson, Mary Ann Gronquist, Basil Edgette, Dennis Hill, Bruce and Donna Bergsten.

Motion to accept the minutes of the September meeting as printed by Basil Edgette, seconded by Brian Paulson. Motion passed. Correspondence: magazine *Minnesota meetings & events* was received.

Treasurer's report. Ron Hendrickson passed around the report. Motion to accept the Treasurer's report by Brian Paulson, seconded by Basil Edgette. Motion passed.

President's Report:

- Jim Mattson is looking for people to be on the various committees.
- Eskolin House – Jim Mattson and Donna Bergsten inventoried the sale items in the storage room, put together about 17 packets of our calendars and disposed of the remaining. The inside needs cleaning should only take about 1-1 ½ hours. With this freed up space, some of the artifacts can be moved/stored at the Eskolin House instead of taking space in the storage unit. There is caulking that repair work that needs to be done. Ron Hendrickson has shored up the building for winter.
- Members submitting their volunteer hours worked to Donna. They can be emailed to her at Oldbrule.hs@gmail.com. or let her know at meetings.
- The by-laws have been signed and will be distributed to the board. If other members would like a copy, please notify Donna.
- A Director Handbook is being put together and will be distributed in December.
- The Archives Committee has been discussing deaccession of items. Donna was able to find forms previously developed by OBHS. She distributed them to the board. A policy/procedure needs to be developed. It was motioned by Bruce Bergsten, seconded by Ron Hendrickson to reaffirm the use of the accession/deaccession forms. Motion passed.
- It was motioned by Bruce Bergsten, seconded by Brian Paulson to extend the use of the storage unit to 12/31/2026, with the hopes of getting a smaller unit or relinquishing the unit if not needed. Motion passed.
- Fundraising – We need to look into activities to raise funds. One prospect is to send out letters, with the first wave to go to teachers and retired teachers; possible develop a calendar with the windmill and other buildings that we want to highlight for 2027; sell some of the deaccessioned items via rummage sale, online sale, or other sales. A procedure needs to be developed for deaccessioning, i.e., recommended by Archives Committee, go before the Executive Board and possibly before the general membership.

Committees:

- Membership: we have 78 members
- Web site: The web site is tentatively built and needs pictures and review.
- Archives: Continuing to go through the items that we have at the Storage Unit. Continuing to scan items from Carlson Safe, scrapbook items and miscellaneous items and documents. Developing processes and worksheets for gathering information from scrapbooks, deeds, etc. for people to work on at home.
- Research Center: Troy Follis is done with the first part of electrical work. After insulation is installed he will finish the electrical work. John Tuura will be back within a week or so to finish installing the wirsbo. Then we can start the insulation. Basil Edgette recommended that we use closed cell blown in insulation. He spoke with a gentleman at Duluth Spray Foam, and the guestimate was for about \$6,000. Discussion about using some money from general funds, as this will also house the OBHS office. Ron Hendrickson is concerned as there is not that amount in the general fund and he is concerned that if we take the money from the MSMA account, there will not be much left to do other work. There was discussion about using the fiberglass insulation donated by Dan Gronquist and also use of the remaining Styrofoam in basement. It was agreed the use of fiberglass in the Monticello School is acceptable given it is for above ground use. Fiberglass should not be used in the Research Center due to much of this area being below ground and can retain moisture. The suggestion was to weigh our options and get specific estimates. We need to find

out what the average temperature needs to be in the vault. It was decided to table this discussion until we can get actual estimates for a couple options. It was also suggested that we start fundraising. Discussion of types of fundraisers and which may bring us more money: “Go Fund Me”, On-line auction, fund raiser at Kro-Bar without all the door prizes, letter writing, etc.

- Monticello – The biffy has been set by Joe Grube! Jackie Plunkett is hoping to get the school area wired and get the floor in the attic area before winter sets in.
- Windmill and grounds: Brian Paulson has been brushing the area; the windmill has been treated for “Powder Post Beetle”, the drainage area has been finished, along with requesting a quote from Stack Bros. for lightning protection and finishing the roof and moving the cutter stone for display. There was discussion on future additional parking areas at the windmill.
- Eskolin House: Need to set a date for cleaning the house. Plunkett’s did not look at the shavings/dust on floor near chimney. Ron Hendrickson will contact Plunkett’s to insure further pest control.
- Depot: Brian Paulson reported that the depot is buttoned up for winter. The outside siding on the bottom has been painted and attached. The upper area has been trimmed and battens are up waiting for spring to get painted. After that is done, the dock will be built and rails brought in. There is discussion of painting the inside a light sand color.
- Merchandising: Ron Hendrickson had 5 copies of the Davidson Windmill pamphlet printed. Cost is \$16, so we need to sell at \$20. (old booklets were sold for \$8) Silver Tonsberg can make copies of *Sisu and Sauna*, but it will be a spiral bound book. This book cannot be reprinted with the consent of those who drafted the book. Jackie will work on getting this permission. Motion to get the OK from writers to sign release to reprint *Sisu & Sauna* by Mary Ann Gronquist, seconded by Bruce Bergsten. Motion passed. If we get the OK, we should print 20 copies with the pages of corrections added to the back of the book.
- Pollari Map: no action
- By-laws: By-laws have been signed, and copies will be distributed to directors. If anyone from the general membership would like a copy, we will either email or provide a copy.
- Donation form: It has been updated and will be included in the newsletter.
- Fundraising: see the President’s report.

New Business:

- Discussion of possible change of Executive Board meeting. It was decided to leave it as it is.
- Christmas Party: December 8 at 6:00 pm Potluck. Motion by Ron Hendrickson, seconded by Jackie for Mary Ann Gronquist to purchase Christmas Meat and bring to the party. Motion passed. Please bring Christmas sides for dinner. Additional help is needed to set up and tear down.

Encouragement: Roger Johnson and Audrey Hakkila

Meeting Adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Bergsten

O-BHS Secretary