

## 2004 MINUTES

### NOTES FROM MEETING MAY 20, 2004 OF FRANKLIN TOWN HALL HISTORY GROUP

Present: Phyllis Dearborn, Jim Geishert, Michael Alexander, Ralph Ruhland, Mary Jane Liegel, Pat Pulvermacher, öSticklesö Nachreiner (Correction: is not öSticklesö, change to öRichardö), Gene and Karen Beth, Marian and Dean Burmester, Sandy Stiemke  
Elsie Haas wanted to be present, but had another commitment.

Twelve people were present at the meeting held at the Franklin town hall at 7:00 P.M. Phyllis Dearborn chaired the meeting. She handed out an informational sheet regarding the meeting and follow-up of the April 19 meeting held at the Plain Public Library hosted by the Spring Green Area Arts Coalition. The meeting was for the purpose of developing interest in the development of community historical societies in the area bounded by the River Valley School District, namely Arena, Plain, Spring Green and Lone Rock.

An agenda sheet was also handed out which included discussion of four major areas:

- 1) plans for the Franklin town hall building,
- 2) decision by the group on which historical society to go with öUmbrellaö River Valley Historical Society or form a group under the Sauk County Historical Society
- 3) plans for the Plain 3-day celebration which is held the last weekend of July
- 4) June 17 meeting at Franklin town hall at which Tom McKay will be present.

Jim Geishert who is on the Franklin town board stated that the Franklin Township would pay for the cost of replacement of windows located in the lower front of the buildings. Phyllis Dearborn said her husband Wayne Dearborn would be willing to do the labor.

Phyllis Dearborn stated that the Sauk County Historical Society has offered to donate for free to the group old display cases for use in the town hall. Ed Prem has measured the door and the cases would have to be less than 30 inches in order to fit through the door. Sandy Stiemke offered to go with Phyllis to pick out the cases.

Phyllis talked to Bill Gruber, of the village board, and he okayed the placement of an old-time bench outside the town hall. Phyllis said Wayne Dearborn could make a bench out of old barn boards.

Michael Alexander stated that the basement foundation needs work. It was also felt that once the basement windows were replaced there should be some kind of protective layer placed over them. Also it is very damp in the basement, and a dehumidifier would help with that problem.

Phyllis gave background information on the Spring Green Area Arts Coalition. Several of those attending this meeting had not been present at the April 19 meeting at the library. A discussion followed regarding the obligations that might be involved in belonging to such as group as the öUmbrellaö River Valley Historical Society, the financial accountability of the heads of this group, and handling donation and loan of items for display in the Franklin town hall. Ralph

Ruhland offered to take care of doing the formal paperwork needed in order for the group to become a society.

A vote was taken to decide if our group wanted to be a part of the "Umbrella" River Valley Historical Society or under the Sauk County Historical Society. The vote was eight for the "umbrella" group and four to be with Sauk County.

Suggestions for the Plain three-day celebration were then discussed. Michael Alexander offered pieces of glass to place over genealogy scrolls which need to lay flat. Karen Beth and Marian Burmester will bring their Paul Seifert display. Joe Wankerl will be asked to bring his Indian Artifact collection. Other ideas included refreshments for guests, fans for air circulation, and a banner to be hung outside with the group name. Jim Geishert said the windows would be replaced by the July celebration.

Suggestions for names to be discussed further at the next meeting were "Franklin Township Founders Society", "Plain-Franklin Historical Society", "Franklin Preservation Society", "Franklin Historical Society".

Phyllis said that she felt the Loreto area should be included as part of the area covered by the group.

Next meeting will be Thursday June 17 at 7:00 p.m. at the Franklin town hall.

Notes prepared by Sandy Stiemke

## Minutes of the May 25, 2004 meeting of the Potential River Valley Historical Society

At 6:30 the Lone Rock contingent gave us a tour of the Dillon Tailor Shop in Battery Park and talked about their plans for moving memorabilia into a history room in the library. They also had photos of the community building restoration on display in that building.

At 7:30 the meeting came to order. Introduction of newcomers was followed by a brief recap of the April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. Derrick Gee reported that the survey taken then showed that 20 out of 25 people liked the idea of forming an umbrella organization of the River Valley with villages forming local chapters under it. One person wanted to affiliate with the county historical society and 4 were unsure. Eighteen of the 25 were willing to help run the organization.

Each town then reported on action since the April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting:

Lone Rock ó Don Brander reported that the group has met & will go forward even without the umbrella group but would like to join together.

Spring Green ó Eldon Pratt had called and found 10 interested people, 2 of whom would be willing to head the group. Kelly Phelps organized people to start making oral history recordings at the retirement center.

Plain ó Phyllis Dearborn reported that 12 people met last week. Eight were in favor of the umbrella, 4 wanted to join with Sauk County. Their main focus is preservation of the Franklin Town Hall.

Arena ó Inez Learn said that 20 people came out on a rainy weekday and are very interested in local history ó so much so that they didn't get around to talking about organizational structure.

Tom McKay from the State Historical Society talked about the need to form a legal entity, whether it's our own River Valley umbrella organization, chapters of county organizations, or individual town societies. A legal entity can then get liability insurance (necessary if we hold any public events) and tax-exempt status (which allows us to avoid paying sales tax on any purchases and makes contributions tax deductible).

He then discussed the pros and cons of each type of organization:

All 3 counties' historical societies (Sauk, Iowa, and Richland) are affiliates of the State society but would have to amend their bylaws to allow chapters. Our villages are all at the edges of the counties but have some things in common with each other.

If we all affiliate under one group we only have to go through the process and pay the \$150 fee once. The chapters have their own bank accounts, budgets, and officers but all assets legally belong to the umbrella. If a chapter acquires valuable property they are encouraged to incorporate separately. If the chapter goes dormant the umbrella maintains the assets until the

chapter gets going again. They can cover areas of the county that don't have a chapter (e.g. rural areas) and bring together interest groups that overlap chapters (e.g. civil war or railroads). The umbrella group and each chapter must have bylaws. There must be an article on affiliation with the State Society & one on dissolution. These would be educational organizations and assets would be held in the public trust. That means if the group dissolves the assets can only be given to another non-profit organization. If the group reaches a point where there are no members, officers, or board of directors the assets become the property of the State Historical Society. They usually find some way to keep the assets in town (e.g. by donating them to the local library).

The main disadvantage is that most people identify with their local community. The issue then becomes how you keep the umbrella group alive & funded & useful.

The Bayfield County umbrella group puts out a newsletter with articles and chapter reports. They hold annual meetings in different locations with displays and speakers. They take 10% of the local dues, accept individual donations, and hold an annual fundraiser. The chapters elect their own leaders & appoint two members to the umbrella board.

The River Valley umbrella has two big advantages over county affiliation: the river ties these communities together in ways the counties don't, and it would overlap with the school district and could plan activities with the schools.

The next opportunity for the State Historical Society to accept us is October. Tom will help us with the paperwork & getting tax-exempt status, which is generally made retroactive to the organization date. In the mean time, we could use the tax ID number of SGAAC.

People then caucused within their villages and all agreed they were not ready to speak for their whole community but would like to discuss at their next meeting whether or not to form a River Valley umbrella group. Next scheduled meetings are:

Plain: June 17

Arena: early June

Spring Green: June 8

Lone Rock: June 10

All will report back to Derrick by June 18<sup>th</sup>. However, as he will be away for several days at that time, he asks that the villages report back to Mary Lloyd-Jones who will work with Derrick to progress the project. Please contact her at [maryllj@merr.com](mailto:maryllj@merr.com), 608-588-3009, or 6514 Hillside School Road, Spring Green, 53588.

NOTES FROM MEETING JUNE 17, 2004  
OF FRANKLIN TOWN HALL HISTORY GROUP

Present: Karen Beth, Gene Beth, Michael Alexander, Wayne Dearborn, Phyllis Dearborn, Dean Burmester, Marian Burmester, Mary Jane Diehl Liegel, Joe Prem, Pat Pulvermacher, Jim Geishert, Sandy Stiemke.

Phyllis Dearborn called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. She introduced Tom McKay, local history coordinator of the State Historical Society who gave an overview of what we must do to become an organized historical society, whether we are independent or become part of the River Valley Historical Society "Umbrella." We need to have legal status as an organization. To be part of the State Historical Society the requirements are: 1) to charge dues 2) focus is to be primarily historical 3) open to anyone for payment of dues 4) provide for distribution of assets to another nonprofit organization if we disband. An annual report must also be submitted. Tom also brought resource material.

Phyllis read a letter from the Town of Franklin Planning Commission dated May 13, 2004 which was a recommendation to support the historical use of the building.

Discussion on being part of the "Umbrella" of the River Valley Historical Society or being an independent group ended with a unanimous vote to be part of the "Umbrella" group.

Phyllis reported that she and Sandy Stiemke picked out three display cases at Sauk County Historical Museum that they are going to donate for the Town Hall use. Sizes are 1) 29x42x60, 2) 28x95, 3) 19x48x54. Peter Shrake also said more are available if we want more in the future. Phyllis will coordinate the picking up of the display cases. Richard Nachreiner had offered at our last meeting to go and pick them up. Peter Shrake has offered to help in any way he can.

A vote was taken on a name for the group, with "Franklin Historical Society" being the unanimous choice.

Discussion on plans for the 3 day Plain celebration, July 24-25 included ideas for exhibits, hours to be open, donation box, refreshments, and preparation time.

Phyllis offered to put a notice in the Weekly Home News announcing the "open house." Gene Beth suggested popcorn and lemonade. Mary Jane Liegel will see about using St. Luke's popcorn machine. Jim Geishert suggested a graphic time line which could be part of the display. Katie Smith, who was unable to be here tonight, will help on this. Sandy Stiemke and Karen Beth will research info for this. Jim Geishert and Wayne Dearborn will work on display materials using barn boards. Jim Geishert and Michael Alexander will work on replacing the broken windows. Concerns about security for the Township record books which are now in the building was expressed by Joe Prem. Ideas included signs, ropes and secure display cases.

Phyllis stated that we were cautioned by Peter Shrake of the Sauk County Historical Society to have a stipulation in our bylaws that in order to assure nothing is lost, no items be loaned out.

Among items already offered for donation/loan were old school books by Mary Jane Liegel, a Cramer Bros. Plate owned by Phyllis Dearborn, and a school desk by Sandy Stiemke.

The next meeting will be June 24 at 7 P.M. agenda will be further planning for the Plain 3 day celebration open house. Each Thursday night thereafter until the 3-day celebration will also be a meeting/work night to get exhibits ready.

The bench made by Wayne Dearborn has been placed in front of the Town Hall and is very attractive.

Notes prepared by Sandy Stiemke

NOTES FROM MEETING JUNE 24, 2004  
Of FRANKLIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Phyllis Dearborn called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Present: Karen and Gene Beth, Marian and Dean Burmester, Wayne and Phyllis Dearborn, Jim Geishirt, Richard Nachreiner, Joe, Ed and Mary Prem, Sandy Stiemke

Plans for the Plain Celebration were discussed. Phyllis reported that Mary Jane Liegel had found out that the popcorn machine owned by St. Luke's will be in use that weekend. There will be further checking in the area for a popcorn machine for rent. An alternative suggestion of cookies and lemonade was made. Jim Geishirt reported that he had asked Joe Prem about getting a key for door. However, with the replacement of the front door, the locks may also be changed at that time. Mike Alexander will get an appropriate old door for the front. The door in the back could be transferred to the front door if a suitable one for the front is not found. Phyllis and Wayne offered to drive their vintage auto in the parade advertising our group.

Phyllis reported that there is a person in the Town of Franklin who at this time wishes to remain anonymous, committed to donating \$1000. once we have our tax exempt status.

Phyllis reported that Ed Liegel is going to donate a computer that he has been using in his business. There is a software program "Past Perfect" that is used by historical societies, including the Sauk County Historical Society for donations and other museum records.

Phyllis reported that the 2 of the 3 display cases donated to us by the Sauk County Historical Society were picked up by Richard Nachreiner and Ralph Ruhland on Thursday. There will need to be additional manpower to help load the remaining display case. There was some glass breakage, which Michael Alexander should be able to replace with glass he has on hand.

Wayne Dearborn had brought a miniature example of display unit he will built to use to put posters etc. on display. Discussion of size with 30x30x40 was suggested.

Discussion on a logo using Michael Alexander's rendering of the Franklin Town Hall for letterhead, envelopes, and brochures was discussed. Marian Burmester and Karen Beth will scan into computer for letterhead etc. A brochure to hand out at the open house is a goal.

Other plans for the open house during the Plain celebration included pictures of Plain. Sandy will contact Jim Greenheck and Phyllis will contact Ken Weitzel to see if they would be willing to come with their pictures. Richard Nachreiner is going to bring old hand tools. Phyllis is going to contact Ann Ruhland Cunningham who has "Old Joe Ruhland's" scythe. She is also going to contact Louise Meixelsperger for vintage clothing for display. The genealogy of many Plain families prepared by Georg Ederer will need to have glass placed over them in order to be flat. Michael Alexander will furnish the glass, and the edges smoothed.

Jim Geishirt has obtained permission to use office equipment where he works to prepare a timeline for Franklin Township to be on display. Sandy Stiemke and Karen Beth are continuing to work with him on this. Richard Nachreiner wrote up a short narration of the building of the

town hall in 1899, which was built by Rob and Albert Nachreiner. This will be included on the timeline.

The next meeting on July 1, 2004 will be primarily to clean the hall. Cleaning supplies are to be brought. Everything is to be in place on Friday, July 23, before the open house.

The address for the township hall is 915 Wachter Avenue.

Notes prepared by Sandy Stiemke

NOTES FROM MEETING JULY 1, 2004  
Of FRANKLIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Phyllis Dearborn called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Present: Karen and Gene Beth, Marian and Dean Burmester, Wayne and Phyllis Dearborn, Jim Geishirt, Mary Prem, Sandy Stiemke

Plans for the open house during the Plain celebration were the main agenda. Dean Burmester offered to handle the popcorn details. The cost of using the tabletop popper owned by All Seasons who supplies Seats, Inc., Reedsburg, is much cheaper than the other places investigated. Dean said he will pay up front any initial costs and we could reimburse him later. There is no cost for use of the popper, or time constraints on its return. Costs would be for bags and popcorn/oil pouches, estimated at \$80.00.

Phyllis Dearborn offered to take care of the lemonade.

After checking the agenda for the Plain celebration, the decision was made to have the hall open from 11-4 on Saturday and Sunday. Phyllis and Wayne will drive their antique car in the parade, and Jim Geishirt volunteered to make signs advertising the Franklin Historical Society to be put on the car.

Jim Geishirt handed out samples for flyer/posters to be placed around town. Color of paper desired to be sepia/brown tone. He said KayDee Schmitt would be assisting him in this.

Phyllis will place an article in the newspapers free community calendar for the open house.

Activities for the day include an old town meeting with Franklin township board members acting out the parts.

Karen Beth presented the Franklin Township Timeline info to be included in the timeline display Jim Geishirt will prepare.

Phyllis said we need to get a thank you in the mail to the Sauk County Historical Society for the display cases, and appropriate letterhead would be needed. Jim Geishirt said he would take a picture of the Town Hall that could be used for letterhead and bring it next week.

The decision was made to have regular meetings on the first Thursday of the month, beginning with August, at 7:00 P.M. At that meeting we will have election of officers, determine amount of membership dues, and designation of types of memberships. Our Mission Statement also needs to be finalized.

The computer donated by Ed Liegel was brought into the Hall. The rest of the evening was spent cleaning, and arranging the display cases, and other furniture.

Notes prepared by Sandy Stiemke

NOTES FROM MEETING JULY 8, 2004  
OF FRANKLIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Phyllis Dearborn called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Present: Karen and Gene Beth, Marian and Dean Burmester, Phyllis Dearborn, Jim Geishirt, Mary Jane Diehl Liegel, Mary and Ed Prem, Sandy Stiemke

The meeting began with follow-up plans for posters, brochures, etc. for the open house and for later distribution. Jim Geishirt requested finalization of the brochure he will be preparing. On the brochure will be the contact names, phone number and/or email address of Phyllis Dearborn, Mary Jane Diehl Liegel, and Sandy Stiemke. Meeting times of the historical society will be the first Thursday of each month, 7:00 P.M., at the Plain Public Library. Phyllis has reserved the community room for these meetings through December.

Phyllis proposed that a future project could be the identification of log buildings still standing in the Town of Franklin. All approved enthusiastically.

Discussion of the timeline project being prepared by Jim Geishirt included the need to clarify when the names Cramer's Corners/Log Town/Plain were used. Records indicate John Cramer was a postmaster. Phyllis stated that she is attempting to contact living Cramer descendents from the Lodi/Prairie du Sac area for pictures and info regarding the Cramer's who first settled in Franklin Township.

Next on the agenda was discussion of popcorn for the open house. Dean Burmester reported that he has ordered the popcorn, and payment can be made when the popper is returned. Also any leftover unused packets can be returned. The suggestion of a canopy over the popcorn area to keep out the sun was made. Phyllis said she would try to locate one. There is an outlet in the basement that can be used for plugging in the popper.

The other refreshments will be lemonade and cookies. Phyllis Dearborn said she will take care of the lemonade, cups and napkins(?). She has use of a large container to serve from. Each person is to bring one batch of cookies for the open house.

Gene and Karen Beth have offered their window air conditioner for use in the Hall. There is also concern that the fluctuating temperature may not be good for the computer donated by Ed Liegel, and it may have to go to someone's home, probably the person doing the accession work of donations.

Ed Prem plans to hold an old-fashioned Town Hall meeting on the days of the open house. Copies of past town meetings will be prepared for display.

Marian Burmester brought an attractive jar with a picture of the Town Hall on the front for donations. She also brought an example of letterhead with the picture of the Town Hall. Marian will take care of getting a guest book to be used at the open house and in the future. Sandy Stiemke suggested name tags for the members, and will take care of getting them. Gene Beth will be the cameraman.

Next on the agenda was the displays for the open house. Phyllis reported that she had contacted Ken Weitzel to see if he would bring his pictures of the Plain area. He will be unable to come, but possibly will loan them to us. Sandy Stiemke reported that she has not heard back from Jim Greenheck regarding his bringing his postcards of Plain. Marian and Karen will be bringing their Seifert display. Marian has laminated her family trees. Jim Geishirt said Michael Alexander could provide glass to put over the family trees that are in scrolls, and other items that we do not want handled. Sandy was asked if she could bring a display regarding the cyclone of 1918, and one of the Reuschlein/Voelkel family. She will be bringing a 1906 Plain map that identifies first places in Plain. Suggestions for the display case included doilies, items that Marian has, and the Cramer Bros. Store plate.

Approval was given to the article Phyllis prepared for the Community Calendar for the newspaper. Notes prepared by Sandy Stiemke

NOTES FROM MEETING AUGUST 12, 2004  
OF FRANKLIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Phyllis Dearborn called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Present: Karen and Gene Beth, Marian and Dean Burmester, Phyllis and Wayne Dearborn, Jim Geishirt, Mary Jane Diehl Liegel, Pat Pulvermacher, Sandy Stiemke

The meeting began with a review of how the Open House went on the weekend of July 25 and 26. All present agreed that things went well, and comments from visitors were favorable and positive. Phyllis sent letters of thank you to several people who donated in different ways to making the Open House a success: Linda Paulus, Ken Weitzel, Jim Greenheck, and others. Jim Geishirt was reimbursed \$27. for paper supplies, and Dean Burmester \$42. for popcorn costs.

The feeling was that if we have another open house in conjunction with the celebration, we will only be open on Sunday, because there were so few visitors on Saturday.

Phyllis said that she is donating a check she received for \$25. for historical/genealogical work that she did for a person in Texas.

Phyllis said she had spoken with Tom McKay earlier in the day, and he said we cannot use the name "Franklin Historical Society", because there is already one in another county. The name "Old Franklin Township Historical Society" was then chosen.

Election of officers resulted in the following: President - Phyllis Dearborn, Vice-President - Gene Beth, Secretary - Sandy Stiemke, Treasurer - Mary Jane Diehl Liegel, Directors - Jim Geishirt, Karen Beth, Marion Burmester.

The rest of the meeting was spent working on the by-laws. Membership classifications shall be: individual - \$15., family - \$25., and sponsor - \$100., per year. Since the Town Hall does not have a mailbox, our mailing address will be to the Treasurer, Mary Jane Diehl Liegel, S8552 Valley View Road, Loganville, Wis 53943. Jim Geishirt, Board member, will be a "back-up" person to do banking for the Society.

Phyllis is sending by email, a rough draft of the by-laws to all members to review and return with comments by August 25. That will allow her to get them to Tom McKay for review before submission to the State Historical Society before their October meeting.

The business of the meeting completed, Phyllis shared some exciting events that have taken place since our last meeting. She has received from Edith Alt, and read to us, the translations of the Mary Brickl Brey letters that were in the back of the photo album that Mary Jane Diehl Liegel donated. Edith and Hermine Hausner translated the letters from Germany which were written shortly after the end of World War II. The photos in the album have been copied onto a disc by Marion and Karen.

Incredibly, an original Paul Seifert painting of a farm near Harrisburg has been discovered, and quite by chance. This happened as Phyllis was interviewing a couple on another subject, and they showed it to her. They were equally surprised to find out the history of the artist and the value of his work. They allowed Karen and Gene Beth to come and make a photographic copy of it.

Respectfully submitted,  
Secretary Sandy Stiemke

NOTES FROM MEETING SEPTEMBER 2, 2004  
OLD FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Phyllis Dearborn called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Present: Karen and Gene Beth, Marian and Dean Burmester, Helen Bauer, Phyllis and Wayne Dearborn, Jim Geishirt, Mary Jayne Diehl Liegel, Pat Pulvermacher, Sandy Stiemke

The meeting began with acceptance of the minutes of the last meeting on August 12, which had been emailed to the members. Motion by Marian, seconded by Jim Geishirt to accept.

Mary Jayne Diehl Liegel presented the Treasurer's report. We received \$76. in donations at the open house, a \$25.00 check donated by Phyllis for research done, and an additional donation of \$5.00. After expenses of \$40. for popcorn and \$26. for foam board, our current balance is \$40.00. Mary Jayne did not open a checking account for the society because they told her at the bank, that unless we have a tax exempt number as a nonprofit organization, each member of the board is liable for government investigation into how the money would be used. So opening a checking account will have to wait until our nonprofit paperwork is completed. So the item on the agenda of paying dues now to beef up the treasury was passed over. Motion by Marian to accept the report, seconded by Gene Beth.

Straws were drawn to determine length of terms for Board members with the results of Jim Geishirt, one year; Marian Burmester, 2 years; Karen Beth, 3 years.

Phyllis said that the by-laws sent to everyone for approval did not contain the length of term for president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer. It was agreed that these positions will be for one year and the person can be re-elected to the same position. This election will take place at the annual meeting of the group.

Phyllis said she has given Tom McKay of the State Historical Society the names and address of the Board members, and all should be receiving the newsletter "Columns" in the future. She also presented information on the annual local history convention on October 29-30. A large number of the members plan on going. She has also sent Tom the by-laws, and is awaiting their approval from him.

Discussion on issues with the Franklin Town Board resulted in the offer of Mary Jayne to contact both the Village Board and the Township Board, to request to be put on their agendas for the purpose of requesting that our flyers be added to the Tax bills that go out to every taxpayer in the township and village later this year. She will also find out how many are on tax roll so enough flyers can be printed.

The question of getting a key was tabled, as there is no point in getting a key for a door that is going to be replaced as soon as an appropriate one can be found. Also the discussion on hours to be open as a museum was tabled.

Discussion on charges for copying of photos and documents resulted in a motion by Wayne, seconded by Gene that \$5.00 plus postage and handling be charged for a copy of a photo for

nonmembers, and the cost of \$2.50 for members of the Old Franklin Township Historical Society. It was also decided that visitors to the museum may not bring digital cameras in to take pictures.

Motion by Wayne, seconded by Gene that requests for photocopies be 25 cents for each page copied.

A review of the very professional looking flyers, letterhead and poster prepared by Marian and emailed to us. We found in some individual cases that when printing the email, the right hand words were cut off. This could be corrected by the person printing to choose a smaller font before printing.

Discussion of ways to raise funds, such as manning the Legion brat wagon, or a recipe book were discussed. Phyllis reported on action at the Friends of the Library meeting held last week that she and Sandy attended. There is an idea of having an "Octoberfest" in the fall of the year which would involve the entire local community. A booth manned by the Historical Society would be a possibility.

Motion to adjourn was made by Marian, seconded by Karen. The group then viewed the CDs created by Marian and Karen on the Mary Brey album, and Karen and Gene on the Claridge stone house.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sandy Stiemke, Secretary

NOTES FROM MEETING OCTOBER 7, 2004  
OLD FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Phyllis Dearborn called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Present: Jim Geishirt, Mary Frances Nachreiner, Pat Pulvermacher, Dean and Marian Burmester, Karen and Gene Beth, Phyllis Dearborn, Mary Jayne Diehl Liegel, Sandy Stiemke

The meeting began with reading of the minutes of last meeting, September 2, which had been emailed to members. Motion by Gene, second by Marian to accept minutes as read.

Mary Jayne Diehl Liegel gave the treasurer's report. Marian has donated money she received for photos she copied. We still do not have a checking account due to government regulations. Suggestions were made to look into a regular checking account at a bank that does not charge a service fee.

Phyllis reported that Tom McKay called and said our by-laws will be voted on October 16, and he does not foresee any problems. He will let us know the first week of November if we were accepted. He will help with paperwork to get tax -exempt status. She said it usually takes 6-8 months to get one after State Historical Society approval. This could cause problems with any donations people want to make in 2004. Phyllis will check and see if Ralph Ruhland's helping with the forms could hurry things up.

There will be a number of members going to the workshops at the State Historical Society on Oct 29, and all three topics will be covered.

Phyllis reported on the highlights of the meeting River Valley umbrella group with Derrick Gee and representatives from Lone Rock, the Branders, and Spring Green, Bob Holding at the Franklin Town Hall last Monday. The loosely knit groups will get together 3 times a year. Each group is going to do their own by-laws. Phyllis suggested the idea that the RV group develop a column for The Home News, with contributions from each group on a rotating basis.

Phyllis reported on the results of the meeting of the Franklin Town Board that she and Mary Jayne attended on Oct 6. They granted permission to place a container on the outside of the building for brochures. They also granted permission for a membership flyer to be included with the tax bills sent out the end of the year. We will need about 300, and Joe Prem will call when it is time for us to bring them the flyers.

Phyllis had prepared a letter on Old Franklin Township letterhead, to be sent to our legislator, regarding concerns about an HR10 amendment which could affect research in the future. It was signed by the individual members.

Gene suggested that a way to make money would be a rummage sale held in conjunction with Plain/Loganville's annual sale in May. Mary Frances spoke about a prospering society in Fairwater, Wis. and ideas they have.

Phyllis requested approval of prior purchase of 2 file cabinets at \$45. each, that could be useful to our group. Reimbursement will be later when we have funds.

Phyllis said she and Wayne will be gone during the months of January and February. It was decided to have the regular monthly meetings during those months.

Gene reported on some new findings about painting of Paul Seifert, the folk painter.

Motion to adjourn was made by Gene, second by Jim.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sandy Stiemke, Secretary

NOTES FROM MEETING NOVEMBER 4, 2004  
OLD FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Phyllis Dearborn called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.m. Present: Helen Bauer, Gene and Karen Beth, Dean and Marian Burmester, Jim Geishirt, Mary Jayne Diehl Liegel, Pat Pulvermacher, Sandy Stiemke

The meeting began with reading of the minutes of the last meeting, October 7, which had been emailed to members. Motion by Karen, second by Gene to accept minutes as read.

Mary Jayne gave the treasurer's report, and a handout with the information on it. Our balance is \$65.00. We will be able to open a checking account with an identity tax number. Randy Diehl will fax a form to her.

Phyllis reported that she had received a phone call from Tom McKay and our by-laws were approved. He will mail the forms for Incorporation to Phyllis.

Phyllis passed around the letter received from Tammy Baldwin regarding our letter to her about the HR10 amendment.

Phyllis has received a check for \$10.00 from descendants of the Adam Ring family for copies of pictures of their family.

Mary Jayne reported that the village of Plain has approved OFTHS membership flyers to be placed along with the tax bills that will be sent out. We need to have 330 flyers for them. Karen, Marian, Phyllis and Sandy volunteered to make the flyers on their home copiers. Two forms will fit on a sheet. They will need to be cut in half, and folded. They need to be given to the village by December 1. A decision has not yet been made, by the County, if they will allow the Township to send out their own tax bills. Marian will resend the flyer via email to those making copies.

Discussion of goals for 2005 resulted in: 1) 501C Tax Status 2) Better handle on the Town Hall setup and individually we should write down our long range plans before the next meeting. Begin discussion at our next meeting. Jim said Joe Prem would like to receive the minutes of our meetings; he has been passing them on to him. He will give Sandy Joe's email address. 3) Begin accessioning program. Sandy will contact Mary Stieve at Sauk County Historical Society about training. Mary Jayne, Marian, Karen and Sandy will attend.

Phyllis reported that Cardinal Glass in Spring Green is having a sale of their office equipment and there may be some cases that would be useful to our group. She will check on it.

Reports on the Local History Conference were given by Jim on "Restoring Old Buildings, useful websites are: [www.wisconsinhistory.org/histbuild/architecture/tax\\_credit.htm](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/histbuild/architecture/tax_credit.htm), (there is an underscore \_ between tax and credit) and <http://www2.cr.nps.gov/tps/briefs/presbhom.htm> , by Mary Jayne on "Caring for Collections", and the Beths on "Preparing exhibits".

Phyllis reported that Marie Claire (Bettinger) Neider had donated a copy of the Bettinger Family History, and she had sent a thank you letter.

Phyllis reported that the proposal for a column for the Home News was approved by Bob Holding, Editor, and the column will begin in January with our group preparing the first one.

Motion to adjourn was made by Gene, second by Marian.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sandy Stiemke, Secretary

NOTES FROM MEETING DECEMBER 2, 2004  
OLD FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Phyllis Dearborn called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Present: Gene and Karen Beth, Dean and Marian Burmester, Wayne and Phyllis Dearborn, Jim Geishirt, Mary Jayne Diehl Liegel, Mary Frances Nachreiner, Pat Pulvermacher, Sandy Stiemke

Minutes of the November 4 meeting, which had been emailed to members, were read. Motion by Marian, second by Dean, to approve minutes.

Treasurer's report was presented by Mary Jayne with handout of current balance info. She reported that the checking account has been set up with the Plain Bank, and we have 50 check blanks. We also have our Tax ID number. We have received a check for \$100 from Bill and Jen Kraemer for a sponsor membership.

Phyllis reported that she has received the forms for Incorporation from Tom McKay.

It was suggested that a membership list be put on computer with names and addresses.

Karen passed around samples of membership cards she had prepared. After a vote had been taken choosing one there was discussion about use of a postcard type format which would be a more economical way to send membership cards. Karen will prepare a sample of this type.

Phyllis reported that the Cardinal office equipment sale was in house, and not available to us.

Phyllis reported that she has been in touch with a descendent of T.J. Morgans who lives in California. He is going to send her a copy of his 1993 book and also updated material on CD.

Phyllis reported that she has purchased a rolodex for researchers to fill out for surname research.

She also informed us that around May 20, 2005 there will be 40 to 45 people from Waldmünchen coming to Plain for a three day stay.

Phyllis told us about a library in Clinton County Iowa which holds a "genealogy lock-in" in the basement/root cellar annually and which is a huge success. She also reported about copyright laws regarding when works pass into the "Public Domain" is the year 1923. She gave Gene a handout of info on this.

The balance of the meeting was spent on discussing goals for 2005. A suggestion from the workshop that Phyllis took at the Historical Society is to formulate goals into steps of a plan. We felt that our priority goal is 1) an understanding with the Town of Franklin Board on what we can/cannot do with the building. Of concern are security issues, a new door, safety glass over basement windows, wiring, foundation work, and how this would be paid for. The question of being able to leave displays in place, being able to use both the basement and upstairs, and regular hours to be open as a museum were discussed. Jim Geishirt brought a sample of a proposal format that is used by the company that he works for in bidding for jobs. This project will continue to be worked on until the next meeting.

Jim Geishirt reported that Mike Alexander has a door that can be used for the front door, but it will probably involve new door jams.

The trip to New Glarus to see the museum was postponed indefinitely. A trip to the Mt. Horeb Museum was taken by Gene, Karen, Phyllis and Sandy to learn about their display methods.

Phyllis said she will be gone the months of January and February ó Vice-President Gene Beth will be in charge.

Motion by Marian, second by Gene to adjourn. Following the meeting, Mary Jayne showed us many very old historical documents and items that she has been given of the Diehl and Bruhn families.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sandy Stiemke, Secretary