

## **Selinsgrove Projects, Inc. Board of Director's Meeting**

December 18, 2018

The meeting was called to order by President Carol Handlan at 6:03 PM.

**Attendance:** Present: Carol Handlan, Jessica Newell, Malcolm Derk, John Lazur, Brian Ross, Sara Lauver, Rich Mease, Sean Christine, and Joyce Hendricks

**Not Present:** Nina Mandel

**Guests:** Lindsay Trick, Don Housley, Jake Stiefel, Jessica Novinger, Paul Donecker, Bobbie Owens, and Lindsay Groce

**Monthly Minutes:** A motion to accept the November minutes as submitted was made by Joyce Hendricks. Second by John Lazur. Motion passed

**Treasurer's Report:** Brian Ross presented the treasurer's report. We are up almost 21K this year in comparison to last year. There will be some additional expenses for next year including a website revamp for the Hops, Vines and Wines Festival which will allow online reservation for vendors and will be user friendly and easy to update. The committee will be looking for underwriters for this year to help defray some of the costs. A motion was made to approve the treasurer's report as submitted by Rich Mease. Second by Malcolm Derk. Motion passed.

**Comments from the Public:** Don Housley reported that there is a group of residents in Selinsgrove that have come together and are working on two initiatives. This is a capable, energetic group, they are unsure as to how they should proceed. Should they become a committee of SPI or begin their own group? They are currently working on two projects first of which being to resubmit the historical designation application. Most towns have a historic district but Selinsgrove does not. The second project is to build a digitized base for walking tours. Ed Slavishak and Ryan Ake are working on this component. There could be some additional tours in the future including a haunted tour. They have considered using QR codes but are unsure of a location to house this information.

What a historical designation would mean for Selinsgrove would be access to additional funding for structures. Homeowners would need to have access to meetings. A few years ago this process was completed but didn't go through PHMC. The feedback received was that the information was adequate but not organized in the proper way. Education of homeowners would be required for this project to be successful. Some important information the group needs to obtain is why the application wasn't approved the first time and how long the designation is held for. The district would include Sassafras to Mill streets in a triangle back to the college. The group feels the main priorities will be re-organization of the information and reformatting what was submitted four years ago.

Ultimately this will be based on property owners because they must be in favor of the designation for it to take place. Homeowners would realize a property value increase of 20 to 25% with the designation. This process takes approximately 2 to 3 years and there is a deadline for a grant opportunity in March 2019. Selinsgrove has some significant cemeteries and other historic buildings. SPI will pass all of the information in the SPI archives from the previous submission to Bobbie Jean Owens.

**Small Business Saturday:** Joyce Hendricks reported she felt that the event should be changed for next year due to low attendance at the bank in the morning. Carol Handlan stated that it is value in participating and it is important that we (Selinsgrove) continue to do so. Lindsay suggested possibly getting businesses more involved or holding the event at a downtown business location in 2019.

**Gelnett Submissions:** Carol Handlan reported the Gelnett review committee decided they will no longer fund maintenance requests and are focusing on what would be considered bigger capital projects. Bobbie Jean Owens reported that the request for the clock restoration of \$10,000 has been approved, along with our other Gelnett requests for the Rudy Gelnett Summer Music Series, Farmers' Market Music Series and new Winter Music Series and the Commons awning request.

John Coukart has been assisting with the engineering work on the clock restoration and is donating his services. The borough and engineer will assist with the installation of the mounting of the clock. Last week the borough informed SPI that they believed it's too cold to pour the pad during the winter and suggested the project move forward in the spring. Verdin has agreed to keep the clock in Ohio until the time is right for the installation.

**Promotions Committee:** Carol Handlan reported that there was no Promotions Committee meeting this month. She has continued to meet with businesses. Our billboard is currently down but Lamar will be replacing it shortly. Carol met with Brian Diggins from Lamar to discuss some concerns with the billboard, it is not consistently lit and other options that would be available to SPI.

**New Year's Eve Celebration:** Carol Handlan reported that Bobbi Steininger has agreed to step up and plan an event for New Year's 2019. She is working on a plan that would close West Pine Street from Market to High Streets. This would be a family friendly event which would end by 9 pm. The group will be looking for sponsorship opportunities to help with the cost of the event.

**Economic Revitalization Committee:** Carol Handlan reported that the group met last Thursday. Robert Grayston was unable to attend. Shady Pines Primitives will be closing in two weeks. They are planning to stay in the downtown and have looked at a few rental properties. A lease for the old Michael's Restaurant has been signed. The first and lower levels of the building will be utilized. The Kleinbauer building is also under contract. There will be space in these buildings for small businesses. The old Stereo Shoppe is also under renovation. The distillery is also still moving

forward, which will be located in the old Wilbur Vault building. Krysta Posner, Top Dog Pet Training, LLC will be moving in across the street from the Kleinbauer building. She hopes to open in January. The new sushi restaurant will also be opening after the first of the year. El Canto food truck is also interested in a possible location in downtown Selinsgrove. The framing business is also moving forward and has items on display in their windows.

Carol Handlan reported that she is hopeful that Fresh Roasted Coffee will keep a presence in downtown although they are relocating operations to Sunbury. Fresh Roasted Coffee carries a wide variety of offerings and it would be great to keep that in the downtown. Carol also reported that SPI was asked to be involved in a project with Bucknell University, Susquehanna University (SU), Skip Wieder, Joe Kleinbauer and Marvin Rudnitsky. Malcolm Derk is also included representing SU. She is excited to have Selinsgrove as a pilot for a Rivertown project. Penn State and other another outside sources would help with discovery trails and flood mitigates. Weiser Run is impacted by flooding. Eight students that are in the landscaping design program from Penn State will be working on this project. Undergrad students from SU will be involved. The project will begin in late spring and there could be an implementation grant.

**Façade Grants:** Malcolm Derk reported that Que Brew just got final paperwork yesterday. Michael Savidge is on board with keeping his building which has many of the original historic features as possible. Shane Hendricks, Shawn Felty and Bo Fasold will be meeting to work on ideas for the façade and railing at Sire Advertising. Carol is assisting, Malcolm, in getting the final signed acknowledgments. Justin Womer was very excited about the grant opportunity and was appreciative of the fact that we were able to assist him with signage. Bob Kirkpatrick has reported that BJ's M. Street will now be painted white with black trim. Rick and Donna Schuck will be doing façade improvements. Isabella's is installing new lighting. Robert Grayston received funds for work at the old Computata building and Jason Kinney of the Isle of Que Brewing will also be getting assistance with his projects. We had approximately \$65,000 in requests and this would be a great project to continue in the next year, should SPI authorize additional funding.

**Farmers' Market:** Sara Lauver reported this was another successful season. The last market was held on the eighth of December. Dressler's farm is still selling fruit baskets for anyone who is interested in purchasing them and they will try to continue to do things in the off-season as well.

**Commons:** John Lazur reported that we need three cameras to cover all lines of sight in the Commons and everything will be put in a panel box. There would be an added cost for a lock box. In PA we would need a license to broadcast voices so we would only be able to show images. There would be three levels of use with this camera system. The cost of the project would be \$13,352. There would also be a \$61 installation fee and a \$67.95 monthly fee for cable service. Carol and John will talk to Paul, Shane and Erik to see where the borough is at with this project. John would also like to see the Commons Occupancy Permit and Rules updated. Carol and John will work out the details on this project.

**Discovery Trails:** no report

**Selinsgrove Area Chamber of Commerce:** no report

**Executive Slate of Officers:** Carol Handlan reported that she has received no comments or feedback about the slate of officers proposed last month so the prospective slate of officers is as follows: President: Jessica Newell; Vice President: Malcolm Derk; Treasurer: Brian Ross; Secretary: Rich Mease. A motion to accept the slate of officers as submitted was made by Joyce Hendricks. Second by John Lazur. Motion passed.

With no further business, Carol Handlan adjourned the meeting at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lindsay Trick*

Administrative Support  
Selinsgrove Projects, Inc.