



BIHS PERFORMANCE REPORT

Activities of the Beaver Island Historical Society

www.beaverislandhistory.org

July 13, 2020

The purpose of the Society is to preserve and share the unique history of Beaver Island and the Archipelago.

Historical Society Activities

2020 Program

Museum Openings

The Marine Museum, Original Print Shop, and Protar's Home will be open with limited operations in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Marine Museum opened on July 1st and the Original Print Shop opened July 17th. Both operate Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, 11:00 am to 5:00 pm with detailed cleaning prior to the next open day. The Protar Home is open each Wednesday, beginning on July 1st, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Public health precautions are observed at each facility.

After a seven-week government-mandated suspension of work, construction of the Print Shop Addition continued with estimated completion the end of July. Then the exhibits will be installed. The Sepeshy Mural returns to the Island August 14, 2020.

Museum Week

The events planned for the 40th Annual Museum Week scheduled to occur July 12 through July 18, 2020 period are regrettably cancelled.

Historical Walking Tour

To honor Beaver Island history and attract visitors, the Society created a Historical Walking Tour in 2019. This tour consists of 17 signs placed throughout downtown St. James, between the Beaver Island Community School and Whiskey Point. The location of the signs is shown on the following page. In the future, similar signs could identify historical sites throughout the Island. These signs were removed for the winter period and replaced in May 2020.

Special Events

Throughout the year, the Society will host special events which include:

- Graveyard walks and talks with Island descendants every other Sunday beginning July 12th, 11:30 am to 12:30 pm. They will occur at the Holy Cross Cemetery and the Township Cemetery through Labor Day weekend.
- On July 18th, Sounds of the Harbor will be live. This includes a series of historic whistles and horns.
- On July 20th, an on-line presentation by the author, Miles Harvey, who will introduce his newly published King Strang book, "The King of Confidence."
- On August 1st, a walk/talk between Protar's home and tomb will be held.
- On August 9th, an on-line presentation by Executive Director, Lori Taylor-Blitz and Cranbrook Center for Collections and Research Director, Greg Wittkopp, who will discuss the Sepeshy Mural.

The Beaver Island Historical Society, a 501(c)3 organization, operates the Print Shop, Marine Museum, Protar's Home, and Heritage Park with the assistance of a volunteer Board of Trustees and incredible docents who volunteered more than 1600 hours of work in 2019.

13,000 people from 36 states and six countries visited the museums in 2019. BIHS averaged over 450 visitors per week at each museum. About 1300 visitors participated in Museum Week.

Currently, there are 140 active memberships of the Society who:

- Receive semi-annual Newsletters
- Receive the book, "The Elder Speaks or Arranmore Links"
- Receive 10% off gift shop purchases
- Receive 10% off genealogy research

Membership dues, donations, grants, sales, local taxes, special events, and genealogy research fund the operations of the Society.

The Whiskey Point Lighthouse tours were very successful serving over 1000 visitors in 2019. The freewill donations at this site were shared with St. James Township.

Print Shop Activities

The construction of the Print Shop Addition began after the close of the 2019 museum season with work continuing through the winter of 2019/2020. Then the world turned upside down in March 2020 and the contractor, McDonough Construction Co., was required by the State of Michigan to stop working for the safety of their workers and the public. They resumed work in early May 2020. As of early July 2020, minor work remains within the building, resealing and painting all walls. A crew came to the Island to complete the floor finish work. Once this work is completed, the Sepeshy Mural will be returned and hung on the west wall. Then, the woodwork will be completed around the mural. The office area will be refreshed.

The remaining major work is outside – construction of the patio area and landscaping. Volunteer help will be used to move furniture out, move furniture back in and place exhibits to get the print shop operational and open to the public.

Once open to the public, the new addition will combine with the Original Print Shop as an expanded museum that represents Beaver Island and the Archipelago. The exhibits will be moveable, so the new addition can host indoor/outdoor events through a 12'-wide doorway that opens in an accordion style to a partially covered patio area. A classroom area will serve as a conference room with a small kitchenette. A new archive room will allow storage and organization of archival materials.



Historical Society Funding

2020 Revenues and Expenses

Funding Sources for Operations/Capital and Remaining Construction

A fundraising appeal letter was issued in November 2019 after the Original Print Shop's front porch and front building wall were replaced and the new addition plan was successfully shared with the community. Clearly 2020 is not the year to seek out corporate sponsors or donors. Therefore, memberships, prior year donations, grant funding and township taxes are the funding sources which allow the Society to continue operations and capital work. The Society has chosen to forego additional fundraising to complete the renovations of the Original Print Shop. Once the Print Shop Addition is complete, equipment, furniture and exhibits will be installed. Minor renovation of the office space will be completed. Then, before any investment is made in the renovation of the original Print Shop building, we will review the cost of the renovation in concert with available funds.

Revenues

The original operating Budget Revenues for FY2020 (Nov. 1, 2019 – Oct. 31, 2020) amount to \$110,346. St. James Township taxpayers fund \$11,909 through a mileage and Peaine Township matches this amount. Because of the pandemic, revenues from donors and sponsors are understandably reduced resulting in revenues for the Fiscal Year estimated to be \$95,811. New sources of operational revenue, included in the above amount, include the below (one Exhibit amount is noted):

- \$22,000; Federal Paycheck Protection Program (for Payroll and utilities)
- \$10,000: State HOPE Program (for Payroll and utilities)
- \$15,000: State Humanities Grant (for an Exhibit - NMU's "Who was Here Before You?")
- \$5,000: Charlevoix County Community Foundation (for sanitary cleaning the Museums)

Note 1: A \$63,000 Small Business Administration 30-year loan was provided to BIHS with 2.75% interest due with pay-back beginning June 2021. The board has yet to decide if any portion of these monies will be used or returned to the SBA. The funds (an amount determined by the SBA) are in their own Money Market Account for management and accountability purposes.

Note 2: On June 1, 2020, a \$25,000 operational grant application was submitted for FY2021 to the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs. This is the first time the Society submitted for this grant. Traditional payouts seem to be about 50%; however, the state's fiscal constraints and statewide grant needs as well as the quality of the application will determine the outcome.

Expenses

Operating Budget: The original Budget Expenses for FY2020 amounted to \$108,000. The new budget expenses are currently estimated to be \$95,175. This new adjusted budget is resulting in a net revenue of \$636.

Other Funds

Capital Funds: The Capital Budget funds are in a separate bank account and began the FY with \$309,123. At the end of June this account contained \$125,828.

Exhibit Funds: The Exhibit Budget funds are also in a separate bank account and started the FY with \$89,195. At the end of June this account contained \$83,478.

Charlevoix County Community Foundation Funds: The BIHS C3F endowment fund started the FY with \$85,240. At the end of June, this account contained \$83,940.