

MINUTES OF THE LCA MEETING

HELD ON 5/11/2021

7 P.M.

ATTENDEES: Mary Ann Snyder, John J. Boyd, Connie Kendall, Theresa Trout, Mike Bookman, Mark Poling, Ed Stofcheck, Barbara Stofcheck, Cheryl Johnson, Dorothy Harder, Lindsay Smith, Elaine Colby, and Beverly Anderson

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by President Barb Stofcheck. Prayer was offered by Lindsay Smith.

No minutes were read at this time.

Connie Kendall read the treasurer's report. As of May 7, 2021, we showed a balance of \$32,849.59. Donations in memory of Kenny Bookman totaled \$280.00 for LCA. Those who gave donations were Cindy Price, Wendy Crabtree, Dave and Doris Stallsmith, Connie Kendall, and the Village of LaRue Council. In March we paid our insurance of \$377.00 and \$50.00 to the Attorney General for our nonprofit status.

Mark Poling made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Mary Ann Snyder seconded the motion. All those in agreement voted yes and the motion carried to adopt the treasurer's report.

There was much discussion about Kenny Bookman and how he took great pride in the Village of LaRue and was always willing to pitch in to help in any way he could. It was not uncommon to find him planting a tree, working on water main breaks, keeping an eye on the recycling bins, or picking up trash to properly discard it. But, he did many things behind the scenes that not many are aware of. He will be sadly missed by many. A flowering lilac tree will be planted in honor of Mr. Bookman this fall in the area of the old school buildings. LCA will buy the plaque to label the tree and council and the tree commission will buy the tree. Theresa Trout stated she would also like to donate to this project.

Theresa Trout and Mike Bookman attended this meeting. Theresa would like to see a historical museum in LaRue. We told her that Lance Roberts is working on that as we speak and she should contact him for more information.

Beverly Anderson said she has not heard anything back from the Marion Public Library. She is hoping to get all the historical books pertaining to LaRue returned to LaRue. The library is looking into some other way to get services to La Rue since the closing of our branch. The kiosk would be nice; but, it still would not solve the problem of having a public place to provide computer access for adults year round and children while they are out of school.

Connie Kendall noted that the Canton Football Hall of Fame is celebrating their 100th anniversary. Roger Goodell, Commissioner, has contacted the Village of LaRue in regards to the Oorang Indians NFL Team. We would like to see him attend the Oorang Bang in June of 2022.

John Boyd attended our meeting to voice his concern about all the properties within the village that are abandoned and/or unkempt. He said they paint a bad picture for the village. As a council member he asked that LCA members and residents of the village attend the next council meeting. He would like us to encourage the council to get tougher with the owners of the properties in question and clean them up. He feels they can be cleaned up by declaring them nuisance properties and uninhabitable. He named the Lumber Company, the Boblenz property on North High Street that is in arrears on property taxes for \$28,000.00 and a house trailer on West Street as examples. He noted he is aware of at least twelve empty or abandoned homes. He is also concerned about all the junk cars in town and pointed to the Catholic Church parsonage with all the junk vehicles setting there. He noted that letters have been mailed to the owners in the past but that it appears that nobody follows up on the issues and it falls through the cracks with nothing being cleaned up. There is a 2012 ordinance regarding lawn growth, junk cars, and trash. He said council was checking with the Sheriff to see if it was legal and could be enacted upon. John feels that if the health department, fire department, mayor, village council, and sheriff department would get together on these issues they could be fixed. He also stated La Rue has the second lowest per capita income in the county. Only New Bloomington has a lower income.

Theresa Trout and Mike Bookman said their dad's green house on Vine Street will probably be torn down. John encouraged everyone to try to attend the next council meeting on 6/7/2021 at 7 p.m.

It was also discussed that La Rue will not be sponsoring a spring clean-up this year. The biggest issue *it is* getting able bodied people to help move the items into dumpsters for disposal. It was also noted that Hardin County and Marion County both have disposal stations and residents should take their own debris to them for disposal. They do not feel our tax money should be used to clean up anybody else's mess. John Howard is working on seeing if once a month we could have a designated day for disposal of large items such as furniture, etc.

Mark Poling reported on the most recent flooding event. We did have several streets that had water covering them. However, he pointed out that we stayed at the 13 foot flood stage for 6 straight hours which is an uncommon event. There was some flood gate leakage. But, once the river started going down it moved away quickly. He knew of no homes that encountered water inside their properties.

It was asked about how the old water tower and the new water tower will work. Connie said the old tower will be in use until the new one is completely done. Then they will switch over and make sure everything is functioning properly. At ^{that} the point the old tower will be torn down. Just painting the new tower blue and lettering it is costing over \$5,000.00.

It was also noted that Family Dollar will occupy a 10,000 square foot building. The plans have changed to have the store face High Street and not Vine Street. For festival purposes, we still do not know if the lot will be able to be used this fall or not. We have been trying to get in touch with Mr. Lee at 614-873-0048 or cell at 614-531-0414.

Elaine Colby stated that her husband's band, Octane, would be honored to play for the Fall Bang for the fire department. She is going to contact Amy Kerr as they book up early.

The meeting was adjourned at this time.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Cheryl L. Johnson