

Point Pleasant Historical Society
November 11, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: President Jim Malone opened the meeting at 7:30 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Old Business: Sharon Morris asked for volunteers to make Christmas Cookies for the annual Old Time Christmas at Bennett Cabin on 12/14 and 12/15.

Vice President Len Ludovico announced that "Yesterday on Film" DVDs are still on sale for \$20.

New Business: None

Program: Timothy G. Hart, Ocean County Historian and Director of the Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Commission spoke about the Cedar Bridge Tavern Historic Site in Barnegat, New Jersey, which was recently restored and renovated by the Ocean County Parks and Recreation Department.

Cedar Bridge Tavern has over 200 years of history and is listed on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places. The tavern is located in the Pinelands of Barnegat Township about one mile south of Route 72 near Route 539 and sits at an important east/west thoroughfare intersection. It is believed that Cedar Bridge Tavern is the oldest Tavern in the country.

Archeological digs at and around the site revealed that Native Americans were present about 1000 years ago as found through evidence of fire cracked rocks and paths. Over 25,000 items were removed from the ground during various digs both before and during the restoration, including bowls, utensils, bottles, cups, and tools. The items on display in the Tavern today are replicas of such items. Revolutionary war bullets were also found at the site, as was a Joseph Bonaparte coin from 1809 supporting the belief that the brother of Napoleon visited the region.

Ocean County purchased the tavern in December 2007 from Rudolf Koenig, who owned the property since 1959. The restoration project began in 2012, and at that time, 13 dumpsters of non-historic items were removed.

The earliest known photograph of the tavern is dated 1928. The tavern survived many forest fires because there were no trees built around it, but as owner, Mr. Koenig planted trees and cut the grass in the nude because he wanted to keep people away.

During the restoration, the trees planted by Koenig were removed in order to protect it in the event of a fire. The flooring on the first floor is authentic and taken from the tavern's original attic. The original section of Cedar Bridge Tavern retains an early 19th century bar, and most of the original interior floor plan, doors, windows, and fireplaces. Information about 19th-century taverns, Revolutionary War history, and daily life at the time is shown through various displays and artifacts. Hundreds of visitors, including students, visit the tavern each year. An annual ceremony commemorating the Revolutionary War's Skirmish at Cedar Bridge is held every December.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM with refreshments. 41 members attended

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Ocone, Secretary