

Post Rock Limestone Coalition Meeting in Beloit

Wednesday, September 22, 2021 – Beloit Municipal Building

Respectfully submitted by Terry Bailey

The Post Rock Limestone Coalition held its bi-monthly meeting in Beloit on September 22nd

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The meeting, held in the Trail Room of the Beloit Municipal Building, was called to order by President Mike Penka at 10:15 a.m.

Eight members were present as well as Tony Mahony of Dorrance and Rod Meyer of Bunker Hill. Meyer has purchased the Bunker Hill Café and is restoring it. He not sure what the final result will be. Mahony has restored the old Dorrance Bank building into a bakery.

Kim Heinze announced that the Travel Guide is expected to be delivered at any time. The group had authorized the expenditure of \$7,290 for 20,000 copies.

Jeannie Stramel gave her treasurer's report. She did not have her bank statement with her but said there had been only one small expenditure. She will consult her statement at home and update on the current balance. She has been authorized to purchase the Quick Books software to facilitate the organization's bookkeeping. Terry made a motion to accept her report, Lisa seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

The inventory of Post Rock artifacts continues.

Considerable discussion was given to a disinformation campaign being waged against several organizations with the Limestone Coalition being one of the targets. The group opposing the Kansas-Nebraska Heritage Area is working overtime to label anything dealing with land preservation as a "land grab" drawing on the fears of citizens that the Federal Government is attempting underhanded methods to steal their property. A few coalition members have attended one of their meetings and can verify the voracity of their fearmongering. The group decided the best thing for our Coalition to do was to inform others of the positive goals of our organization

and the benefits we hope to achieve. Terry Bailey agreed to compose a news release highlighting the positive goals of our organization.

Nothing has been done with the possibility of a Russell High School class doing a video about our organization. Brad said he will follow up.

Consideration was given to purchase promotional items for resale. These items could serve two purposes: money could be made from the sale of Post Rock items and they could serve as positive public relations material.

Brad displayed several products for purchase and the cost of each. The group authorized the expenditure of \$200 for wooden ornaments, stickers, and other items as a test run to see what might sell. It was also decided that the sale of gift items on the internet could be successful. Items could also be for sale at booths the organization has at various events. Everyone was in favor of having a “wholesaler” discount price for those wishing to purchase our items for resale.

Along that same line was the idea of creating Post Rock T-shirts for sale as a fundraising and public relations activity. Word on the street is that the availability of T-shirts is currently an “iffy” proposition. Those who screen print T-shirts report that the pandemic has created shortages of certain T-shirt sizes and colors with no understandable rhyme or reason. Everyone agreed that having Post Rock T-shirts for sale is an idea with merit, but the group voted to postpone this activity for a while.

Kim Heinze reported on the status of rack cards to advertise our organization. Rueben Schuckman specializes in placing such cards along busy highways such as I-70, I-135, the Kansas Turnpike to name a few. He has access to locations across Kansas. He will place our organizational cards for a fee of \$650 for the remainder of this year and all of 2022. His fee is \$600 per year after that. The group voted to secure his services.

The traveling exhibit is nearing completion. The goal is to have pictures from every one of the eighteen counties in Post Rock Country included. Each panel will measure 24” x 36”. The goal is to have it up and going by the end of the year.

The recruitment and selection of an executive director was deliberated. No candidates are currently “in the works.” To clarify – working numbers – a sixteen-hour work week is suggested

at a rate of \$15 to \$20 per hr. No benefits are available. The job will be advertised in as many publications as feasible. A cover letter expressing interest will be expected. Possible candidates will be asked to provide references. The preferred deadline is October 31st. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

It was decided to purchase a six-foot folding table and a wire rack. These items could be used for our displays/presentations.

Brad reported that Sanborn Fire Maps are available from the KU Library.

New Business: The website needs updated to allow people to join our organization on-line.

Some of Andy Stanton's personal business is still comingled with the Post Rock connection.

While not horribly problematic it needs to be cleaned up.

Next year the Post Rock Coalition will be a full 990 organization meaning we will have to file income tax returns.

Next year the organization needs to have a booth at the State Fair.

We will try to schedule our next meeting in Ness City on November 17th starting at 10:00 a.m.

We have no members from Ness City and creating a presence might be helpful

Special thanks to Lucille Heller for arranging Kolache's for a morning snack and Bierocks, lettuce, and potato salad for lunch. The food was prepared by Kay Heller at the Hunter Café.

The meeting was adjourned in time to allow people time to tour downtown Beloit.