

**AMADOR COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MINUTES – BOARD MEETING, March 15, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER: Present- Sue Duncan, Georgia Fox, Wayne Garibaldi, Teresa Guidi, Jeana Hultquist, Judy Jebian, Cathy McGowan, Alicia Miller, Danna Saunders, Keith Sweet, Frank Tortorich, Leonard Williams. Absent – Marilyn Bustillos, Thornton Consolo. Guests – Linda Gonzales, John Hillenbrand, Jack Pfertsh.

MINUTES: The Minutes of February 15, 2023 were approved. **Guidi/Williams/A**

TREASURER’S REPORT: The report was approved. **Guidi/Jebian/A**

PRESIDENT’S REMARKS: President, Sue Duncan, welcomed the guests and then turned the meeting over to John Hillenbrand, Project Manager, and Jack Pfertsh, Historical Archaeologist, for their presentation on the EPA work being done at the Argonaut Mine to clean-up the toxic mining wastes and remediate the area for public use as well as to preserve for posterity the physical remnants of the mine.

John Hillenbrand began the report with a description of the types of clean-up: 1) Emergency, 2) Time Critical, 3) non Time Critical, 4) Superfund. The Argonaut was deemed a Superfund site.

- Clean-up action is now into its 2nd year of work at the site.
- Some of the contaminated soils are being concentrated and buried at one site and covered with top-soil.
- Approximately 100,000 yards of the worst soils are being removed and sent to Nevada for containment.
- Dust inhalation is the main exposure problem for workers at the site, but the site is watered frequently to keep the dust down and workers using equipment wear hazmat suits to avoid health problems.
- A vaporized mercury monitoring system is in place.
- The 1897 historical cyanide and amalgamation features are being revealed and preserved in a state of arrested decay.
- Aerial surveys and lidar maps of the area have revealed historical features that can then be compared with early photographs from the mining period so that the technology of the 1930s can be preserved for research purposes.

Jack Pfertsh continued the report from the point of view of the historic archaeologists.

- Clean-up measures do impact historical features, but mitigation measures are being taken to minimize damage to the area by avoiding historic remnants as much as possible. (For example, a vat had to be removed because it collapsed due to its age and condition. It will be recreated later at that same site.)
- The process area presents a difficult cleanup because of the site formation being like a bowl; however, the equipment being used for contaminated soil removal will avoid damage and preserve as much as possible as mandated by the agreement.
- Two kinds of booklets will be prepared: one for informing the general public of the history/mining technology of the time and another one with more detail for research purposes.
- Public informational presentations will also be conducted with graphic visual materials.

OLD BUSINESS: 1) no report on the livery, 2) the Kiddie Float is in progress.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **MUSEUM – 1)** Andrea Molin, a new volunteer, had to quit because of a new job. **2)** The Committee will meet and plan events for the rest of the year.
- **AMCMC: 1)** Run was held on 2/25 with 14 cars. **2)** Maintenance of the rails is ongoing.
- **KENNEDY MINE FOUNDATION:** Negotiating with the City for preservation of Wheel #1 as well as in negotiation to annex the property into the City Limits.

NEW BUSINESS: 1) The window that fell out of the cottage was temporarily covered with Masonite. Williams will replace a new window later. He will also talk with John Berry about making repairs to the damaged window in the museum.

ADJOURNMENT AT 4:30.