

Newsletter



Knife River Heritage & Cultural Center

PO Box 240 • 180 Marina Road
Knife River, MN 55609
info@krhcc.org

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By Paul von Goertz, KRHCC Board Member

PLAN FOR BEST USE OF DEPOT SITE TAKING SHAPE – COMMENTS WELCOMED

On Tuesday, February 11, KRHCC board members met with key stakeholders to begin planning the wisest use of KRHCC land. The meeting, held at the depot, was attended by Bob Manzoline, Executive Director of the St. Louis and Lake County Regional Rail Authority (RRA), Ken Buehler, Executive Director of the North Shore Scenic Railroad (NSSR) Bjorn Ojard, General Manager of North Shore Track Services with whom the NSSR contracts work associated with the RRA's right-of-way, and three KRHCC board members.

The meeting was greatly aided by a scale model of the depot site constructed by KRHCC board members Todd Lindahl and Larry Ronning, volunteer general contractor. All structures on the model site were movable and so many options for placement of structures could be discussed. Consensus was for each stakeholder to carefully consider current and projected needs for land and structures, and then meet with Dick Gilyard, our volunteer AIA architect, to arrive at the most efficient and functional use of our land - and all according to architectural "best practices."



Ken Buehler, Executive Director of the North Shore Scenic Railroad, comments on the scale model of depot property while Randy Ellestad, KRHCC board member, looks on.

Newsletter

Once we have stakeholder consensus on function and design criteria and opinions from professionals, the KR community is encouraged to comment at a meeting at the depot to be announced. The support the KRHCC has received from the community is testimony to the community's interest in it – and we want to hear from anyone with an opinion!

KRHCC PLANS RELY ON A MIX OF GRANTS AND “LOCAL SHARE”

Since the first of the year, the KRHCC has been reviewing the guidelines of potential funders to see which grants are a good fit. Grant writing is a laborious process, particularly ones that are publically funded, so we want to make sure we have a good shot at consideration. Grant requests are highly competitive as grant requests almost always exceed the funds available.

So far, we are two for two for grant requests and we want to keep that record going. The two we received were modest and together totaled \$3,500, but it all helps!

Most grants are open for requests in the spring and fall; some just once a year. So from the time a grant is open to requests, to submittal of a “Letter of Intent (LOI),” to time the LOI is approved, grant submitted, reviewed, awarded and finally funded, can take up to a year or more.

This spring we have applied for four grants and if we are successful, we will have funding for:

Depot:

Interior T&G paneling, coal burning period stove, three display cases, wood facing for our two metal doors, missing parts for our order board (30' signal pole).

Depot cement apron:

The apron that extends from and surrounds the depot has heaved and cracked since 1900 and needs to be restored or replaced. It is a safety hazard and also drains water towards the depot.

Newsletter

At the time the apron is poured, we can mount our order board, flagpole (already funded), granite memorial to veterans (in progress), and foundation for a gazebo. See story elsewhere: "THE KRHCC'S "PLACE OF REFLECTION."

Shelters:

We have applied for a grant to fund design and engineering services for our boat and picnic shelters as well as an archeological assessment of our site. Public agencies require these services before any consideration can be given to a request for construction funds.

The engineering services and studies, if funded, will be done between October of this year and March of 2021. If the designs and price estimates for the shelters are accepted, we can apply for grants to fund the actual construction. These funds will be available in August of 2021.

While the possibility of being awarded grant funds is encouraging in fulfilling the vision of the KRHCC, nearly all funders require a local match – they want the local community to demonstrate it has "some skin in the game." While it is nice to point out the KRHCC has nearly \$60,000 in local and non-profit donations, those donations all apply to what has been done with the depot, and cannot be claimed as "local share" against future construction (our shelters).

What it all comes down to is we continue to need donations to build our local share. Can you help? Please remember we are a 501(c3) so all donations are tax deductible.

THE KRHCC'S "PLACE OF REFLECTION."

Dick Gilyard, AIA, the KRHCC's volunteer architect, made a suggestion we consider placing a gazebo west of the depot and between it and the picnic shelter. Your board liked the idea and so has worked it into our site plan.

The "Place of Reflection" will be space set aside to reflect on the patriotic heritage of KR and our nation embodied by a nearby 30' flag pole solar lit 24/7, and a 4' tall by 1'x 1" granite memorial to our KR and area veterans, with recognition to those from KR who served in the US Merchant Marine.

Newsletter

An interpretive signage display will tell people how the railroad before them helped transport the steel to win two world wars – or the Lake across which hundreds of thousands of tons of rich, red, Minnesota natural ore found its way to eastern steel mills.

We are happy to say that the components of the “Place of Reflection” are coming together. A Knife River family has paid for the flagpole as a memorial to loved ones who served. The granite memorial to veterans is well along in planning stages with support from the Two Harbors American Legion Post. With this newsletter we are putting out a call to those with a gazebo in good condition that is no longer used, to consider memorializing a loved one by donating it to the KRHCC. Or, consider donating money to build new.

The gazebo in the photo caught our eye as it has design consistent with the 1900s architecture of our depot. It is 10’ in diameter and made of cedar, a possible design being considered. Materials cost about \$4,500 and it needs to be assembled.

If we are successful with grants written to replace/restore the cement apron that surrounds the depot this summer, we will extend the apron to form a foundation for the gazebo as well as footings for the flagpole and veterans’ memorial.

If you have a gazebo to donate or wish to contribute towards new construction, please email: info@krhcc.org



Did you know....?

At least six men from KR of mostly Scandinavian ancestry served in the US Merchant Marine during WWII. During the war the Merchant Marine lost more men per capita than any one of the five traditional service branches. These sacrifices were the cost of winning “The Battle of the North Atlantic,” during which “wolf packs” of German U-Boats brought havoc to ships bringing desperately needed war supplies to England.

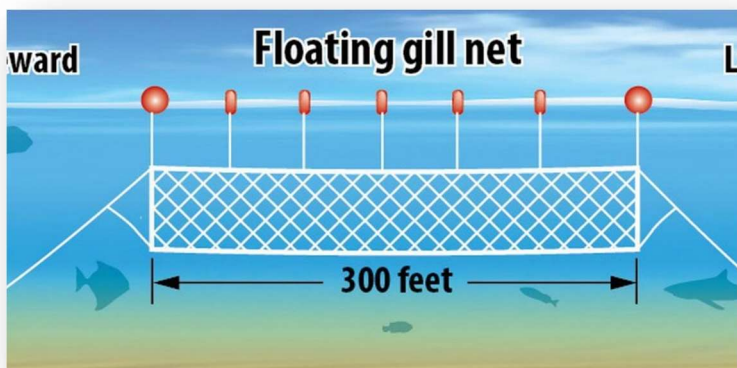
Newsletter

Did you know...?

How KR fishermen set their herring nets.

North Shore commercial herring fishermen typically suspend their nets at varying depths, often from about 20 to 50 feet deep and anywhere from a few hundred yards to a couple of miles from shore. The nets are anchored with lines that go to the bottom of the lake. Nets are suspended in the water column to catch herring that move up from the depths during the night to feed on zooplankton. Nets are attached to floats, and the ends of the nets are marked with tall flags.

A net might be from 200 to 500 feet in length and 14 feet from top to bottom. Nets are



made from monofilament line. The size of the openings in the mesh, regulated by the state of Minnesota, is $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches stretched. That size selects for mature herring and allows smaller herring to pass through without being caught.

Most North Shore fishermen tend their nets with small skiffs as ours do, pulling the net over the bow of the boats, removing herring and tossing them in boxes. When the fisherman is finished, he leaves the net in place or might change its depth or location.

There! Now you know...

Your feedback welcomed:

Your comments and suggestions for this monthly emailed newsletter are always welcome. Email to: info@krhcc.org If you have family or friends you feel may enjoy receiving it, please send their email addresses to same address above.

(more on page 6)

Newsletter

Knife River loses one of its finest...

John Safstrom – 1933 - 2020

The KR community was shocked and greatly saddened on Thursday, February 13th, when long time KR resident and community volunteer, John Safstrom, died unexpectedly while wintering with Gail in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

John loved KR and those who knew him whether through the KRHCC, KRRC or KR Lutheran Church loved him, too. John was a devoted volunteer and 100% reliable. Never giving any indication he was 86 years old, the retired civil engineer would not shirk from the dirtiest and nastiest depot work, or scrambling up a scaffold. Said Larry Ronning, depot general contractor, "John's enthusiasm was contagious, as was his need to understand how the depot project was proceeding. I will miss our construction planning discussions. Thanks, John!"

Somehow, we who worked with and witnessed John's energy and work ethic, thought he would be with us forever. Pastor Susan Berge of Knife River Lutheran Church may have said it best: "Whatever the ages of a group in a room, John was always the youngest in spirit." He sang in both the KRLC choir as well as its gospel-singing quartet.



John takes a break with his depot buddies.

John was a devoted caregiver to Gail, his wife of 58 years, and father to Jon and Lisa. John would sometimes leave during a depot workday to attend to Gail, then come back later to complete what he was doing, even after the rest of us had left for the day.

A memorial service for John will be held 11 AM, Saturday, April 18 at the Knife River Lutheran Church. Rest in eternal peace, John, and thanks for your friendship and all you did for KR... from a grateful community.