



Maryland Free-State Treasure Club

Recovering & Preserving History

Volume 6

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November 29, 2018

November Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by President, Gary Pennington. Gary introduced the club officers: Howard Shettle - Vice President, Steve Cunningham - Treasurer. Mike McCullough as substitute for Secretary, Chris Wisnom. Volunteers were introduced by there separate functions.

A special thank you to Mike Stinemire who always provides a wide range of delicious foods and snacks for the meeting.

Attendance: 33 members were in attendance.

Guests: **Sean Murphy** (Bounty Hunter) and **Steve Absolum** (Fisher F75). Steve Cunningham recommended door-knocking to seek permissions, and Gary emphasized research, and referred our guests to the Club website for information regarding rules and permits.

Treasurer's Report: Club Treasurer, Steve Cunningham, reported the current account balance to be \$4,334.86.

Mini Hunt: No mini hunt was held; these will resume in 2019 at a Spring meeting.

Legal Beagle Report: None this month.

Monthly Club Outing: Steve Cunningham reviewed some of the finds from the Club's October hunt on Bennett Point Rd in Queen Anne; these included flat buttons, musketball, buckle fragment, King George and Large Cent coins, and various pieces of iron work. Steve reported also on the November Club outing, which was a return to the Bennett Point location. In summary, not much was found by the handful of members who hunted the site in November. There will be no Club hunt in December 2018. Nothing definite, but we may have a Club hunt in January.

Open Hunt: Gary thanked volunteers for their efforts toward a successful Open Hunt this year at Sandy Point Park. He mentioned that the Open Hunt has been helpful in past years to raise money for the Club, and to provide the financial means over and above dues and raffle monies

to conduct Club operations, specifically the Members Hunt. Gary announced that he will not be conducting an Open Hunt in 2019, as the Club membership roll is adequate to fund the Club's Members Hunt.

Gold Coin Raffle: Gary indicated that ticket purchases for the 2 1/2 dollar gold coin raffle are getting closer to completion, and we may be able to hold the raffle at the December meeting. Tickets are one dollar each, and members are reminded to hold on to their blue tickets for purpose of identifying the winner at the drawing.

Club Auction: Club member, Bob Rinker, took on the challenge of auctioneer, to obtain "top dollar" for the numerous items donated by Club members for tonight's annual auction. He was assisted ably by his daughter, Carol, who managed the distribution of sale items, and by Gina Stinemire, who managed the cash sales and change. In all, 31 separate lots of gear, coins, finds, books, and supplies netted a total of \$612. A big THANK YOU!! to those who donated and to those who purchased these items.

Monthly Board Contest: Club Vice-President Howard Shettle ran the Competition Board. Results are as follow: **Coin contest** (including jewelry items): 1st place - Kurt Franz, 2nd place - Mike McCullough, and 3rd place - James Foster. **Relic contest** (bullets and buttons): 1st place - tie between Andy Cooper and Kurt Franz, 2nd place - Mike McCullough, and 3rd place - James Foster. **Club favorite** - by popular vote, **the 1684 gold half guinea**, found by Charles Gilroy. Charles explained that a homeowner in Calvert County had excavated for a septic install, and that Charles located the gold coin in the pile of excavated soil.

Raffle Winners: **50-50** - \$77.50 went to Mike McCullough; **Silver Round** - Charlie Brandner; **Leg-of-Gold** - name drawn - Dave Franz

Next Club Meeting: Thursday, December 27, 2018 at 7:00 PM at Victory Villa Community Center, 404 Compass Rd., Essex, MD 21220, 410-887-0258. Gary gave the breakdown for our December Club. Dinner meeting which will be in the auditorium. Deli and fruit platters will be provided, but Club members are asked to bring other food items, such as fried chicken, chili, salads, desserts, rolls, snacks and drinks to complete the menu. Steve Cunningham will be coordinating the menu items; look for his email next month. The **December meeting** will feature a **Find of the Year** selection; those submitting their find for this competition must have entered the item to the Competition Board during the calendar year. Our **January meeting** focus will be on members finds from 2018.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.