

NEWTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of December 8, 2014
Sargent Woods Community Center

Members present:	Bill Landry	Mary Riordan	Karen O'Malley	Ron Saunders
	Kathy Meserve	John Meserve	Marilyn Landry	Barb DiBartolomeo
	Sally Woodman	Diane Morin	Kathy Meserve	Cheryl Saunders
	Nancy Wrigley	Roger Hamel	Jane Hamel	

Bill Landry called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

Secretary's Report – Mary Riordan

Diane Morin made a motion to accept the minutes of November 10, 2014. Cheryl Saunders seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report – Bill Landry

The November 30, 2014 account balances were:

The Checking income was from new member dues and Fall Festival sponsor. Expenses were for the electric bill, Keene Fire & Safety and the post office box rental. The Money Market income was from interest and donation from the ITW Foundation. Expenses were for the Fall Festival and the schoolhouse annual insurance. Karen O'Malley made a motion to accept the November 30, 2014 Treasurers' Reports. Marilyn Landry seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Old Business:

Marshall House Barn repair update: Bill Landry reported the barn repair was completed on Monday. The only thing left to do is move the carriages back to the barn.

Stage Curtain Project update: Bill Landry reported the project was completed Tues. Dec 2nd just in time for the Selectmen's meeting. Bill reviewed the sequence of events of the project.

Christmas Tree Lighting review: Bill Landry reported there were only 3 children at the tree lighting. There was discussion on what to do next year in light of the turnout this year. There was a suggestion that letting the schools know when we schedule the event may increase the awareness and attendance and asking the Girl Scouts to sing or make ornaments for the tree. Nancy Wrigley offered to arrange for her daughter's carolers next year.

Insurance Policy update: Bill Landry reported he and Roger Hamel had reviewed the policy with Foy Insurance. They were able to reduce the building valuation which reduced the cost to \$759.00 saving us \$238.00.

Middle School project update: Bill Landry has not heard from the 6th grade teachers yet.

New Business:

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Annual Food Pantry Donation: Ron Saunders made a motion to donate 10 - \$10 Gift Certificates to the Newton Food Pantry. John Meserve seconded the motion. The motion passes on a unanimous vote. Bill Landry noted we donated a total of \$362 this year.

Election of 2015 Officers: The slate of officers nominated for 2015: President – Bill Landry, Vice President – Kathy Meserve, Secretary – Mary Riordan, Treasurer – Bill Landry. Sally Woodman made a motion authorizing the Secretary to cast one vote for the slate of officers. John Meserve seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous vote. Secretary Mary Riordan cast one vote in favor of the slate of officers.

Reports of Curators & Committee Chairpersons:

Curators: Ron Saunders thanked Bill Landry for continuing as President of the Society. He noted Bill's commitment and leadership has allowed the Society to complete the major projects we've undertaken. He also recognized Diane Morin and Mary Riordan for their work on the Barn repair project. They were out there like troopers in the cold. Ron Saunders, John Meserve and Bill Landry will meet Saturday Dec. 13th at 9AM at the Police Station to move the carriages back to the barn.

Historian: No report

Archivist: Karen O'Malley reported Barb DiBartolomeo and she have accessioned 170 items this year. Cheryl Saunders reported she put two bonds from 1875 signed by Selectmen in the schoolhouse. These were found in the Town Hall attic.

Programs: Sally Woodman confirmed we have three presentations set up for 2015.

Web Site Status: Mary Riordan reported we had 203 visitors to our web site, up from 162 visitors in November. She will work with Bill Landry to get the Barn and Curtain projects on the site.

Correspondence: None

Other: Bill Landry thanked Ron for his kind words and emphasized that **without the efforts of all of the members we could not have accomplished what we have.**

Ron Saunders acknowledged the help of Mike Pivero, our Road Agent, and Joe Brunett, South Hampton's Road Agent in using his bucket truck to straighten the star on the tree and adjusting the lights for the Christmas Tree Lighting.

Marilyn Landry explained the library is getting a new table and asked if the Society would like the 36 x 60 table with a plaque they are replacing. Since some of the items in the schoolhouse are displayed on table made with sawhorses, it was decided we would accept the table from the Library.

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Next Meeting: Monday April 13, 2015, 7:00 PM at the Merrimac Savings Bank.

Bill Landry adjourned the meeting at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Riordan, Secretary

ADDENDUM:

The members then participated in our first group Christmas Party in several years. As the members enjoyed their salad, pizza and beverages a slide show was on display showing the activities of the conservators and volunteers that worked on the Stage Curtain Restoration Project.

During the festivities Bill Landry also read a list of some of the accomplishments of the society over the past eight (8) years. This list was originally put together as part of the "paperwork" to the NH State Council on the Arts grant application for the stage curtain project. See below.

The following are some of the projects and accomplishments of the society during the past eight (8) years. **Made possible by the hard work and dedication of all the active members of the society.**

- ❖ Complete renovation of the 1850 Primary Village Schoolhouse, which served as the society's headquarters, and its conversion to the town's second historical museum. A 1½ year project. Completed July 2011.
- ❖ Assumed custodial responsibility of the town owned Marshall House Museum buildings. Have initiated various repairs to the house and barn in conjunction with the Board of Selectmen.
- ❖ Creation of the society's Executive Board and several Operating Committees & Chairpersons.
- ❖ Implementation of the Fall Festival fund raiser. This single event brings in sufficient revenue to fund all the society's activities. 2014 was the most financially successful of the eight years we have held the event.
- ❖ Implementation of the society's Public Presentations with the assistance of the New Hampshire Humanities Council (NHHC). Donations received at the presentations are matched by the society and given to the Newton Food Pantry. An annual Christmas donation is also made to the pantry.

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- ❖ Initiated a rotating display of historical artifacts at the Newton branch of the Merrimac Savings Bank
- ❖ Created our own internet web site. The site contains a vast amount of information about the society, including photos and slide shows.
- ❖ Began and continue the process of electronically archiving photos, documents and listings of historical artifacts in our collection.
- ❖ Assisted the Newton Planning Board in updating the town's Master Plan by identifying and providing information on historic sites and buildings in town.
- ❖ Re-instituted the annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony for the residents.
- ❖ Participated in the 2012, MA Carriage Festival where the society's circa 1870 Hayford Carriage won the People's Choice award.
- ❖ Increased the society's visibility via announcements on Newton's public TV station, local newspapers, emails and Social Media.
- ❖ Conduct periodic open houses at the town's two (2) museums.
- ❖ 2014 - Major repairs to the storage barn at the Marshall House Museum
- ❖ 2014 - Restoration/repair of the 2 historic stage curtains at the Newton Town Hall via a grant from the NH State Council on the Arts.