

Newton Historical Society

Minutes of July 13, 2015
Sargent Woods Community Center

Members present:	Bill Landry	Barb DiBartolomeo	Karen O'Malley	
	Sally Woodman	Diane Morin	Marilyn Landry	
	Dan Dodson	Roger Hamel	Jane Hamel	
	Kathy Meserve	John Meserve		

Bill Landry called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Secretary's Report – Mary Riordan

Kathy Meserve made a motion to accept the minutes of May 11, 2015. Karen O'Malley seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report – Bill Landry

The Checking income was from dues & donations. Expenses were for the electric bill. The Money Market income was from interest. Expenses were for presentation fees. Sally Woodman made a motion to accept the June, 2015 Treasurers' Reports. Karen O'Malley seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Old Business:

Historical slide show presentation to Sargent Woods residents: Bill Landry reported the presentation was well attended, and greatly appreciated by the residents of Sargent Woods. The program lasted one hour and thirty-five mins. A survey was emailed to the attendees requesting their thoughts and input on how to improve the program. The results of the survey are at the end of these minutes. (Pages 5 & 6)

As a result of the program, four more residents of Sargent Woods have become members of the society. They are: Dan Dodson (Life), Gerry Quatrone (Life), Fred and Marianne Burbridge (Family).

On another note, Karen O'Malley suggested we might want to contact the Middle School Social Studies Dept. to see if they wanted an updated version of the slide show. Bill will email the school.

Status of Original Town Charter restoration: Bill Landry reported he spoke to Jim Doggett last week. Due to vacations and the schedule of the company in N. Andover who will assist us, the project has been delayed until the fall. It does appear this will be a smaller project than previously thought. An acid free pouch may be all that is required to preserve it.

New Business:

Fall Festival: The festival will be held on Sat. October 24th at the Merrimac Savings Bank. It is anticipated that the merger of the Merrimac Savings Bank and the North Shore Bank will be completed by year's end. The plan is to invite the top officers of the North Shore Bank to the event.

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Hayford Carriage: Bill Landry was contacted by Mr. Bill Cooney of ME regarding a completely restored Hayford Concord Carriage he has for sale. He is asking \$2,000.00 for the carriage which is purported to be in excellent condition. (See photo below – Page 4)

The general consensus of the members was that this might be a good purchase for the society as it would provide us with a carriage that would be visually pleasing as well as safe for us to use in parades or other displays as well as a suitable entry into the Annual Amesbury Carriage Festival.

Before we make any commitments, Bill will contact Mr. Cooney to determine how much of the carriage is actually original Hayford parts and how much of it might not be original Hayford parts. He will also contact Ann Miles to get her input on the possible purchase of the carriage.

Reports of Curators & Committee Chairpersons:

Curators:

Schoolhouse porch review: Ron Saunders and Bill Landry took a look at the porch and its support structure. It appears the support beams are in fairly good condition and can be strengthened by putting “sister” beams beside the current ones. The sagging left side of the porch can be raised and new blocks will be inserted to keep it level. The porch flooring and steps will be replaced.

Bill spoke with the Newton building inspector and was given the OK to make these type of repairs without applying for a building permit. The work will be done in the fall.

Bill has provided Cheryl Saunders with a sketch of the repairs and a materials list which she will present to Home Depot in an effort to get the materials donated to the society via a program they have for helping Non-Profit organizations defray these types of cost.

Blocks for Carriage Jacks: A 12 ft. 2” x 8” piece of lumber will be purchased and cut into 12” blocks to put the carriage stands on.

Historian: Letter re: Harvey Mitchell Collection Site: Roger Hamel investigated the letter Karen O’Malley had found, that was written by Paul Holmes, regarding this collection of artifacts and documents. Mr. Holmes was seeking a “repository” for the items. Roger discovered these artifacts could have possibly come from two pre-Columbian sites that were in Newton. The site was located at 53 Smith Corner Rd. However, we can find no records or artifacts that indicate that the society ever received any of these items. Mr. Holmes letter will be kept in our files, but no further action will be taken.

Archivist: Karen O’Malley reported she and Barb DiBartolomeo have completed Phase I of archiving the artifacts, photos and documents in the society’s collection. This has been an ongoing process for the past several years and Karen and Barb, with some help from Mary Riordan & Mary Marshall in past years, have done an amazing job. The ladies received a resounding round of applause from the members in attendance.

All items in the school house & office have been accessioned. Karen & Barb will return to the Marshall House to confirm that all artifacts at that property have been accessioned.

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Archivist: (Continued)

Ann Miles provided a Deed of Gifts & Accessioning form for the large post lamp and stand that are in the society's possession.

NOTE: All artifacts the public wish to donate to the society must be related to Newton's history, must be approved by our Curators and must be accompanied by a completed Deed of Gifts and Accessioning form.

Programs: Sally Woodman reported "Ramblin' Richard" was a big success. There were approximately 45 people in attendance. The next event is "Rally Round the Flag" on Wednesday 7:00PM Sept. 30th at the Town Hall.

The presentations for 2016 are: April 13th – Wacky songs that make you laugh and Sept 21st – Liberty is our Motto (Musical).

Web Site Status: No report

Correspondence: Received a note from Steve Rowe (former society President), via John Meserve, that Steve is sifting through artifacts at his family home on N. Main St. and may have some items of interest to the society. Bill Landry left him a phone message about setting up a time to view the items.

Other: Bill Landry confirmed that the First Aid Kit at the Marshall House is checked annually. No items have been used from the kit in the past several years.

Next Meeting: Monday Aug. 10, 2015, 7:00 PM at the Sargent Woods Community Center.

Bill Landry adjourned the meeting at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Landry, Substitute Secretary

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Bill Cooney
207-882-6845
Westport Island, Me.

Completely restored Hayford Concord Carriage
Price - \$ 2,000.00



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SURVEY RESULTS OF S. W. HISTORICAL PRESENTATION

LENGTH OF TIME:

- 3 - Just right. Just right, time flew by ...didn't realize until wrap-up
- Appropriate length of time
- { A little long for the metal chairs
- { Seemed a bit long. But, maybe because the chairs were hard.
- { The show seemed a bit long, but the folding chairs were getting hard by then.

TOPICS TO KEEP:

- All topics interesting
- All are good
- Don't know where you could cut

TOPICS TO ELIMINATE:

- Liked them all. Then & Now seemed to get best crowd reaction
- I wouldn't eliminate any of the topics. They were all interesting and gave a good taste of Newton's history.
- Train Wreck
- Shoe Industry
- Trolley (Could pass on it)

FAVORITE TOPIC:

- 2 - Trolley
- 4 - Carriages. Carriages, loved it. Maybe expand it.
- 4 - Ice Industry

LEAST FAVORITE TOPIC:

- Fires
- 2 - Shoe Industry - Still enjoyed it
- My opinion, there are no subjects regarding history that would be least favorite

WHAT CAN THE PRESENTERS DO TO IMPROVE THE PROGRAM?

- Maybe split it into two presentations of 1 hour each and expand on the subjects a little bit. Take a short break in the middle.
- In "Then & Now" it might be better to see the photos side by side on same slide.

WHAT CAN THE PRESENTERS DO TO IMPROVE THE PROGRAM? (CONT.)

- This was your first time for the presentation. I would suggest the speakers 'tighten up' their segments and be a little more focused. Otherwise, it was all good.
- I think the presenters did a great job. Tell us more about how you discovered some of your information. I enjoyed that.

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COMMENTS:

- Thanks for the great presentation by you and the team. My wife and I have lived in Newton for over 38 years and didn't know many of the facts you presented.
- Thanks for keeping us up on the history of our town.
- A+ I think you all did a fantastic job. I liked having people take turns and talk about their subject. It seemed like they were very familiar with what they were talking about. The slides with the photos and added info to the side was done just right. It went a lot smoother than many other presentations I've seen, better than the pros.

I would like to see more of everything especially individual items in your museums. I'm sure there are many pieces that could fill an hour on their own.

- Enjoyed the program and learned a lot.
- I have a greater understanding of Newton's history and it's place in this area, as we moved here from some distance. It was nice of the Historical Society to bring your presentation to Sargent Woods.
- I thought the presentation was fantastic. I've been telling everyone about it. Thanks to all of the members for putting so much work into this project.
- Thought it was great.
- Excellent presentation. Enjoyed it all --good job by all presenters
- We would like to thank you for the great presentation Monday evening. We really enjoyed learning the history of our town and found it so interesting. We appreciate all of the time and effort that went into this presentation. Please pass along our thanks to all of the presenters.
- Presenters did an excellent job, and I appreciate the effort and dedicated spirit that went into the program, and thank you for putting it on for the SW residents.