

Newton Historical Society

Minutes of May 11, 2015
Sargent Woods Community Center

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

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

Secretary's Report – Mary Riordan

Marilyn Landry made a motion to accept the minutes of April 13, 2015. Barb DiBartolomeo seconded the motion. The motion passed 8 yeas, 2 abstentions.

Treasurer's Report – Bill Landry

The Checking income was from NHHC Grant, donations and dues. Expenses were for the electric bill, donation to Food Pantry, presentation fee. The Money Market income was from interest. Diane Morin made a motion to accept the April 30, 2015 Treasurers' Reports. Marilyn Landry seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Old Business:

Discuss Historical slide show presentation & schedule: Bill Landry, Roger Hamel, Diane Morin and Mary Riordan met to review the presentation. Bill Landry will meet with the Sargent Woods Social Committee to determine the date, June 15th or 16th. Bill gave an overview of the presentation.

2015 Dues Due (Life Members excluded): Bill Landry all dues have been paid.

New Business:

Jim Doggett re: Original Town of Newton Charter: Jim Doggett displayed a copy of the Original Town of Newton Charter issued by King George in 1749. The document was found in the Town Hall safe. It is made on 8 pieces of laid paper sewed together. There was discussion on where it could safely be displayed. Cheryl Saunders has 2 maps for the Society that were also found in the safe. Jim asked if the Society would consider fund raising for the conservation of the Charter. John Meserve and Karen O'Malley thought this would be a project we should consider participating in. Jim will get a cost estimate to fix the document. Bill Landry will ask Chris Hadsell from Curtains without Borders if she knows anyone who does this kind of thing.

Hayford Carriage in Memorial Day parade: Bill Landry reported Annie Collier asked if we would put the carriage in the Memorial Day parade. The consensus was the carriage is too fragile and the issue with the wheels is a concern so we should not put it in the parade. Bill Landry will inform Annie of our decision.

Veteran's flag placement at cemeteries: The fourth grade at the Memorial School will do Willow Grove and Bill Landry, Marilyn Landry and Mike Hughes will take care of the other cemeteries.

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Reports of Curators & Committee Chairpersons:

Curators: Ron Saunders reported he has some Grange artifacts from Wilt Avery. He will give them to Karen for accessioning. Bill Landry will send Ron some Accession forms.

Schoolhouse porch repair / replacement – Bill Landry spoke to Sam Zannini about the ADA requirements if we replace the porch. The ramp spec is 1 inch per foot. John Meserve noted we may not have to put in a ramp based on the cost of the repair. Bill noted there are brick columns under the porch and thinks we can just repair the porch flooring and stairs.

Removal of Christmas tree lights – Ron Saunders reported he could not remove the lights because the tree is too high. We need another piece of equipment to reach them.

Historian: No report

Archivist: Karen O'Malley reported she has returned the items she was working on over the winter.

Programs: Diane Morin reported there were approximately 40 people at the "Two Old Friends" presentation. They gave us a CD of their music. If anyone wants to borrow it, contact Sally or Diane. We received \$50 in donations and sent matching funds for a total of \$100 to the Newton Food Pantry. Our next presentation is "Ramblin Richard on June 24th 7:00PM at the Town Hall. Our last presentation for this year is "Rally 'round the Flag" on Sept. 23rd 7:00 PM at the Town Hall. Diane had a list from Sally of 6 possibilities for next year. Bill Landry will email the list with descriptions to the members. We will finalize 4 choices at the next meeting.

Web Site Status: Mary Riordan reported we had less traffic on our site in April. The traffic increases when we add pictures to the site. We are at 62% disk space usage. Bill asked what the cost would be to increase our space. Roger Hamel asked how much the web site cost. Mary explained we had a 3 year subscription for about \$150. Mary noted that Robert Dezmelyk registered our domain name and donated it to the Society. Roger Hamel asked if we should take over the registration for future continuity. Mary will check on when the domain registration expires.

Correspondence: None

Other: None

Next Meeting: Monday June 8, 2015, 7:00 PM at the Sargent Woods Community Center.

Bill Landry adjourned the meeting at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Riordan, Secretary