

# Newton Historical Society

Minutes of October 9, 2017  
Sargent Woods Community Center

Members present:	Bill Landry	Mary Riordan	Karen O'Malley	Barb DiBartolomeo
	Sally Woodman	Diane Morin	Marilyn Landry	Roger Hamel
	Kathy Meserve	John Meserve	Fred Burbridge	

Bill Landry called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

## Secretary's Report – Mary Riordan

Diane Morin made a motion to accept the minutes of September 11, 2017 as written. Karen O'Malley seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

## Treasurer's Report – Bill Landry

The Checking income was from donations during the Isle of Shoals presentation. Expenses were for the presentation expense, Assoc. of Hist. Society dues, and Newton Food Pantry donation. The Money Market income was from interest and Festival ticket sales and sponsors. Expenses were for Fall Festival, new checks, historical binder displays and NHHC 2018 program registration. Sally Woodman made a motion to accept the September 30, 2017 Treasurers' Reports. Barb DiBartolomeo seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

## Old Business:

**Review museum Open House on Olde Home Day Sat. Oct. 7:** Bill Landry reported one person visited the museum. He suggested we only open the museum on request due to the low attendance of the past couple of openings. John Meserve noted the Olde Home Day was geared to young children and may not be the audience we are looking for. He suggested we consider a different time to open it. Bill will accept volunteers to form a sub-committee to look into scheduled openings.

**Fall Festival update:** Kathy Meserve reported tickets are available, posters out, publicity has been out in newspaper articles, Facebook and the town web site. John sent out sponsor letters. We've received 29 responses. She's working on drawing prizes. We have 13 prizes to date. She has the wine, soda and paper goods. Bill will pick up the wine glasses on Friday. Sally Woodman and Diane Morin provide their usual hor'dourves. Marilyn Landry will do the cheese and cracker platter. Barb DiBartolomeo will do deviled eggs. The Meserves and Mary Riordan will provide tables. We will meet at the Schoolhouse Saturday at 12 PM to get the items to display. We will meet at the bank on Monday at 8:15 to take the items out of the bank.

## New Business:

**Update on Marshall House issue:** Diane Morin reported the town had the raccoon animal waste cleaned up. They removed a damaged quilt and papers. Karen O'Malley will remove it from our records. The town is having a chimney cap installed.

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**Museum visit Newton Girl Scout Troop # 11014 on 10/13:** Bill Landry reported the troop will be visiting the Primary Schoolhouse on Friday October 13<sup>th</sup> at 3:30. Karen O'Malley, Mary Riordan and Bill will be there at 3:00PM. Diane Morin suggested asking the leaders for ideas for showing the museum to the general public. Roger Hamel suggested Bill contact the leaders to get parental permission for us to take pictures of the kids. Tony Romanowski cleaned the museum for Olde Home Day.

**Other:** Karen O'Malley reported she noticed mouse droppings and mold on the boxes in the back room. She is not sure what we should do to protect the items. John Meserve suggested getting Damp Rid to reduce the humidity in the building and Earthkind Mouse Rid. He will get more information.

## **Reports of Curators & Committee Chairpersons:**

**Curators:** No report

**Historian:** Roger Hamel reported he could not find any information about the 1896 ticket from the Mother Goose Carnival Diane Morin found under the stage in the Town Hall. He received a request from Victoria Zapf for information about Susan Piper who was married to David Fowler. He did not find any information on Piper in Newton. He sent her 1790 US Census information he found on Mary Fowler of Newton and David Fowler of Hopkinton, NH.

He found information on Bertha Cheney, whose rocking chair we recently received. She was born in 1894 and died in 2005. She married F Leslie Gale somewhere between 1910-1915. He died in 1918. In 1938, she married Mr. Cheney of Newton and they bought 21 Gould Hill Rd that year. Mr. Cheney died in June 1979; she sold the property in 2003. Roger will give Karen the information to add to the computer accession record.

Bill received a request on the Newton Pavilion, a square dancing venue. Pat Estabrook told Bill it was located where the Learning Center now is. The building was owned by Leo Finen who tried to run a square dance place. Leo sold it to Jim Hale who tried to continue the square dancing but it didn't take off.

**Archivist:** Karen O'Malley reported she and Barb DiBartolomeo finished accession all the items we have. She suggested printing information cards to display with the items. Mary will help her with this. Karen will give the backup drive containing the accession files and Bill's files to Diane Morin to be stored in the Town Hall vault.

**Programs:** Sally Woodman reported we have 2 presentation scheduled: April 25, 2018 – Secrets of the Cellar Holes, and September 26, 2018 – New England Lighthouses. She would like direction on the maximum cost we're willing to spend before she contacts Roxie Zwicker about a summer presentation. Bill told her to get the information on her possible presentations and then we'll decide.

**Web Site Status:** Mary Riordan reported visits to the web site remained about the same.

**Correspondence:** None

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**Next Meeting:** Monday November 13, 2017, 6:30 PM at the Sargent Woods Community Center.

Bill Landry adjourned the meeting at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Riordan, Secretary