

# Newton Historical Society

Minutes of September 10, 2018  
Sargent Woods Community Center

Members present:	Bill Landry	Sally Woodman	Karen O'Malley	Barb DiBartolomeo
	Marilyn Landry	Loren Somes	Kathy Meserve	John Meserve
	Roger Hamel	Cheryl Saunders	Ron Saunders	

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

## **Secretary's Report –M. Riordan (Marilyn Landry filled in for Mary at this meeting)**

Roger Hamel noted that the Historian report stated he had connected David Hayford and Barbara Swasey-Keir. It should read, Bill Landry made the connection. John Meserve made a motion to accept the minutes Aug. 13, 2018 as amended. Kathy Meserve seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

## **Treasurer's Report – Bill Landry**

The August 31, 2018 activities were:

The Checking income was from an NHHHC Presentation Grant. Expenses were for the electric bill, annual NHHHC donation, and Fall Festival Supplies. The Money Market income was from interest. Marilyn Landry made a motion to accept the August 31, 2018 Treasurer's Report. Cheryl Saunders seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

## **Old Business:**

**Fall Festival Update:** John Meserve gave an update of the Fall Festival status. Ninety Sponsor letters have been sent out. New names were added by North Shore Bank management and several were added by members. A discussion was held regarding the purchase of wine for the festival. Kathy Meserve will head the committee for wine selection. Preparations will be finalized at the October 8<sup>th</sup> society meeting.

**Scout Troop #91 Project:** Bill has not heard back from Paul Taylor regarding the possibility of the scouts scraping and painting the Cobbler Shed at the Marshall House Museum.

**Review of Slide Shows on Web:** Mary Riordan has posted the 8 new slide shows on the web. Comments on Facebook regarding the shows were very favorable, particularly the "Now & Then" show. (See Web Site section below)

## **New Business:**

**Addition of slide shows to the local TV channel:** Prior to the meeting Bill Landry and Diane Morin discussed the possibility of creating a weekly "Historical Society Program". The main focus of the weekly program would be to show the various slide shows as well as any other programs that might be of interest to the residents. This will require further discussion as to its creation and showing.

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**Other:** Mr. Loren Somes of Exeter, NH attended the meeting and signed up as a Life Time Member of the society. "Larry" is also a member of the Exeter, NH Historical Society and involved in genealogy research.

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

### **Curators:**

Ron Saunders discussed his plan to do a monthly "walk through" of both museums to identify any problems or issues that would require action to resolve any issues. Ron noticed that the screen on the rear basement window was damaged. He will replace it with screen that Sally Woodman will provide.

Ron also mentioned that there was a tree behind the barn at the Marshall House that required attention before it became a problem that could possibly damage the barn. This concern will be brought to the attention of the Town Administrator.

### **Historian:**

Roger Hamel reported that he had further communications with David Hayford regarding the Hayford Carriage connection with Henry Burbeck. David will connect with Barbara Swasey-Keir, Henry's Great Granddaughter, to get his questions answered.

A research request came in from Gary Rhodes of Henderson, NY regarding the Whittier Family in Newton. Mr. Rhodes provided several given names of Whittiers. Roger found some birth and marriage records pertaining to Newton, Amesbury, and S. Hampton. This information was passed on to Mr. Rhodes.

### **Archivist:**

Karen O'Malley discussed a thought she had about creating small card that would be attached to the various artifacts, document, photos etc. that we have on display at the museums. The cards would contain information pertaining to each of the items on display. This would require creating cards for inventoried items that may be used in future displays. This would require quite a bit of work and would be best handled by a small committee.

### **Programs:**

Sally Woodman reported that the plan for the 2019 programs is to book "Colonial Stories: The tangled lives of Native Americans & English Settlers" for April and "The Connected Farm Buildings of New England" for July. If the July program is not available, the next choice would be "New England Quilts and the Stories They Tell". A search will be conducted to come up with a 3<sup>rd</sup>, non NHC program.

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## **Web Site Status:**

As was hoped / anticipated, due to the addition of the 8 slide shows to the web site, as mentioned above, there was a marked increase in activity over the previous month.

	<u>UNIQUE VISITORS</u>	<u># VISITS</u>	<u>PAGES</u>	<u>AVE. PAGES PER VISIT</u>
<b>August:</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>1,612</b>	<b>4.6</b>
<b>September:</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>5,619</b>	<b>12.4</b>

Also, apparently as a result of the increased web site activity, folks looked at other information we have on the site. We received emails from two families that looked at our list of veterans from all wars and informed us that they had relatives that did not appear on the list. Those names were added to our list and Mary Riordan updated the lists on the web site.

**Next Meeting:** Monday October 8, 2018, 6:30 PM at the Sargent Woods Community Center.

Bill Landry adjourned the meeting at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Landry, Temporary Secretary