

Newton Historical Society

Minutes of August 12, 2019
Sargent Woods Community Center

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

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

Secretary's Report – Mary Riordan

Marilyn Landry made a motion to accept the minutes of June 10, 2019. Barb DiBartolomeo seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report – Bill Landry

The June & July 2019 account balances were:

The Checking income was from dues. Expenses were for the June & July electric bill, appreciation gift card for Bill Gallant for mowing the Schoolhouse and supplies. The Money Market income was from interest. Marilyn Landry made a motion to accept the June & July 2019 Treasurers' Reports. Kathy Meserve seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Old Business:

2019 Fall Festival: John Meserve reported the event will take place on October 19, 2019 at the North Shore Bank. He has 88 letters to send for corporate sponsorships at the beginning of September. Bill Landry will prepare flyers to be posted and tickets. Kathy Meserve will coordinate the wine selection. We will talk in October about food. The Bank knows the date. Bill will send complimentary tickets to Fritz Weatherbee, Eric Williams and the cameraman. Karen O'Malley suggested setting up the Fritz Weatherbee videos on laptops and displaying the NH State symbols such as bird, flower, tree, etc. instead of the items from the Schoolhouse. Mary Riordan explained at this time we have one video file and the other three are links to the WMUR website. The laptops would be in the offices so the audio could be heard. Dave Simpson suggested turning on closed caption. Bill Landry will contact Eric Williams, the producer, again to see if we can get the video files for the three links. Mary Riordan will send Dave Simpson & Diane Morin the links. Dave will try to download the videos and send them back to Mary. Dave, Mary & Diane will work on this. Marilyn Landry suggested still bringing a few items from the Schoolhouse to display.

History of Fire Dept. Slide Show: Bill Landry reported the slide show has been posted on the website.

Metal Detector search of Marshall House grounds: Bill Landry reported he has not spoken with Rob Hayes or Ed Jenkins in a few weeks. They have found quite a bit of stuff and will gather it together to see what we would want to display.

2019 Dues: Bill Landry reminded people that non-lifetime member dues are due.

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New Business:

NH Chronical TV Segments: WMUR aired 4 Fritz Weatherbee segments about Newton. The first, which is posted on our website, is about the 1887 fire. The other 3 were about the carriage industry, the Village Primary School House Museum, and the founding of the town as Newtown and subsequent name change to Newton.

Old Home Day Sept. 14 (Open museums? 100.00 Sponsorship?): Bill Landry asked if we wanted to open the museums on Old Home Day. Bill noted there was a lot of interest on Facebook following the Fritz Weatherbee segments. Karen O'Malley suggested getting the event schedule so we can open at a good time. John Meserve suggested opening them before the events starts, maybe 10 AM – 12 noon. Bill Landry will contact Vanessa Burrill to get a schedule for the event. Kathy Meserve made a motion to be a sponsor of Old Home Day for \$100. Cheryl Saunders seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

2020 Pentucket Bank Calendar photos: Bill Landry sent 5 pictures with write-ups to the Pentucket Bank for their 2020 calendar. Last year the bank used photos of our two museums.

Other:

Bryant Family visit to Primary School Museum: Bill Landry gave a tour of the Primary School Museum to the Bryant Family who were visiting the area from Florida. Jennifer Bryant is "Peachy" Estey's daughter.

Reports of Curators & Committee Chairpersons:

Curators:

Schoolhouse basement window: Ron Saunders reported the basement window needs a whole frame and sash in addition to the window. Dave Simpson will take a look at it.

Schoolhouse chimney repair: Ron Saunders reported he has not heard from Steve Merritt on this repair. The chimney will be pointed and capped.

Schoolhouse broken window in museum (North wall): Ron Saunders reported he repaired the window.

Historian: Roger Hamel reported he did a deed search on the Nicol Farm. The property contains backlands and is in both NH and MA. He found the house in Newton was sold 12/12/1881 by James Harland Chase to Albert James. Willard F. and Edith L Paul bought it on 2/3/1931 and sold it 5/25/1945 to Peter, Raymond J and Alfred Nicol. After Peter's death in 1946, Alfred sold his interest to Raymond. The property was put into the Nicol Farm Partnership in 1986 with Raymond as trustee.

Roger received a request from Melanie Ferrin-Morey of Shortsville, NY regarding Capt. Jonathan Ferrin. He found Capt. Ferrin is buried in the Old Town Cemetery and that he was a signer of the 1741 petition to create the town, a veteran of the French and Indian War and a copy of his will.

Bill Landry received a request from Paul Bradly about the history of the Gale Library. Bill sent him the article from the 250th Booklet.

Archivist:

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Karen O'Malley reported the clothing in the display cabinet is mildew. She suggested we need to clean them before closing the display. Cheryl Saunders noted we had previously had them dry cleaned. There was discussion on how to control the environment in the cases. Cheryl suggested leaving the case cracked open to allow air flow. Diane Morin suggested putting vents at the top. Ron Saunders suggesting running an oscillating fan when it's humid. There was concern for the delicate materials may be damaged by commercial cleaning. Cheryl will try to clean them with Dry-L.

Programs:

2019 – Sept. program scheduled: Sally Woodman reported the next presentation, Above & Beyond JFK, the American most dangerous spy mission by Michael Tougias, is scheduled for Sept. 25, 7:00PM at the Town Hall.

Web Site Status: Mary Riordan reported a significant increase in web site activity after the Fire Department History and Fritz Weatherbee's Newton Fire of 1887 were posted.

Correspondence: None

Next Meeting: Monday October 14, 2019, 6:30 PM at the Sargent Woods Community Center.

Bill Landry adjourned the meeting at 7:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Riordan, Secretary