

# Newton Historical Society

Minutes of October 14, 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	Dave Simpson	

Bill Landry called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

## Secretary's Report – Mary Riordan

Diane Morin made a motion to accept the minutes of August 12, 2019. Marilyn Landry seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

## Treasurer's Report – Bill Landry

The Checking income was from NHC Grant, Fall Festival sponsors, presentation donations. Expenses were for the electric bill, Fall Festival supplies, schoolhouse window repair, NHC presentation, and Newton Food Pantry donation. The Money Market income was from interest and Fall Festival sponsors & ticket sales. Expenses were for schoolhouse chimney repair and Old Home Day sponsor. Marilyn Landry made a motion to accept the September 30, 2019 Treasurers' Report. Diane Morin seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

## Old Business:

**2019 Fall Festival:** John Meserve reported \$2,250 sponsor donations to date. He noted donations are a little slow this year. Kathy Meserve reported the beverages have been purchased. She has picked up the door prizes. Bill Landry will pick up the wine glasses on Friday. Mary Riordan will bring a table. Bill Landry will have a laptop to show presentations of previous events.

Karen O'Malley has printed sheets for the NH State symbols to display. She has updated the display boards. Marilyn Landry, Sally Woodman, Cheryl Saunders and Barb DiBartolomeo will bring food. Schedule for setup and cleanup:

Friday @ 2:30 PM at the Schoolhouse to bring the display items to the bank

Saturday @ 12 noon at the Bank for setup

Monday @ 8:15 AM at the Bank to remove the displays

**Old Home Day Open House Review:** John Meserve reported we had 1 visitor at the Marshall House and 3 visitors at the Primary Schoolhouse Museum. The consensus was we would only open the museums upon request. Bill Landry expressed his disappointment at the lack of participation and support of the town residents regarding Society events.

**Fritz Wetherbee videos:** Dave Simpson will make a DVD of the Fritz Wetherbee Newton Segments. Mary Riordan will put them on the laptop to play continuously during the Fall Festival.

# *Newton Historical Society*

## **New Business:**

**Schoolhouse basement window:** Dave Simpson reported the window frame was rotted so he replaced it. Dave donated the materials for the repair. It will be completed in a week or so. John Meserve noted the window on the Cobbler Shop at the Marshall House is fallout out. Bill Landry will cover two of the Cobbler shop windows until they can be repaired next spring.

**Schoolhouse roof:** Dave Simpson asked if there are 2 layers on the roof. If there is, they would have to be removed before the new roof is installed. Nobody knew the answer. Dave will check to see if there are two layers. There was discussion on a metal roof. Diane Morin will ask Building Inspector Dennis Nadeau if a metal roof can be installed over 2 layers of asphalt shingles.

**Girl Scout visit to museums in 2020:** Bill Landry was contacted by the Newton / Kingston Girls Scout Troop about a visit to the museums. He will schedule it with them in the spring of 2020.

**December Christmas Party:** We will have our Christmas party following the December 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. There will be pizza, salad & soda and a Yankee Swap, \$15 maximum gift.

**December Election of Officers:** Bill Landry who has been President and Treasurer for 15 years indicated he would appreciate relief from one or both of these duties. Mary Riordan also indicated she would like a rest from being Secretary, which she has done for the past 15 years.

**Review Meeting Schedule and Society Operations current & future:** Bill Landry reviewed our current schedule and projects. He stated the Society has initiated and completed many major projects over the past dozen or so years. We are at a point where our major concerns are the care and protection of the Schoolhouse Museum and its contents, and overseeing the care of the Marshall House Museum property, which is the property of the town. With this in mind, there was discussion on holding meetings 4 times in 2020. The meetings would be in April, June, September, and December. The members agreed to the new meeting schedule. Any interim issues and actions will be handled by the Society Executive Board. John Meserve suggested looking at the strategic direction of the organization and its structure. There was discussion on presentations for next year. Due to poor attendance this year, we will hold off on scheduling any presentations for next year. These topics will be discussed again at the December meeting.

**Other:** None

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

**Curators:** Bill Landry reported the Schoolhouse chimney has been repaired. Bill will contact Ron Saunders about setting up the Christmas tree lights around the Thanksgiving time frame..

**Historian:** Roger Hamel reported he received 3 requests: Cheryl Walker Foley about her father who was in town around 1930. He could not find anything on him.

Cindy Silverman, daughter of Sandra White, about Bootland Farm on Highland St. He sent her information from Ancestry.com and Rockingham County Registry.

Steven Williams about Ben Drew. He sent him information from Ancestry.com and Rockingham County Registry.

# *Newton Historical Society*

**Archivist:** No Report

**Programs:** Sally Woodman reported there were only 12 non Historical Society people in attendance at the Sept presentation, Thirteen Days in October: The Untold Cuban Missile Crisis Story.

As reported previously, there are no plans to schedule any public presentations for 2020.

**Web Site Status:** Mary Riordan reported the visits to the Web site were down for August & September. She noted that our minutes of August was the only thing added during that time.

**Correspondence:** None

**Next Meeting:** Monday December 9, 2019, 6:30 PM at the Sargent Woods Community Center.

Bill Landry adjourned the meeting at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary Riordan*

Mary Riordan, Secretary