

Newton Historical Society

Minutes of April 12, 2021
Sargent Woods Community Center

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

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

Treasurer's Report – Bill Landry

Expenses were for the electric bill and NH Historical Society dues. The Money Market income was from interest \$0.93. Mary made a motion to accept the January - March 2021 Treasurers' Reports. Cheryl seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Old Business:

Topic: Election of Officers

Bill asked for nomination for officers for the 2021 Society. Diane is willingly to take on the President's role. Bill will stay on as the Treasurer. At first no other members stepped up to take the Secretary and Vice-President position. The Society discussed what to do if no one fills these positions. The society looked at dissolving the organization or going on a permanent hiatus until such time there is interest from other residents to join the society.

Diane made a motion to dissolve the society. Seconded by Mary for discussion.

The society further discussed how they would dissolve the organization. Concerns were raised on what would happen to all the artifacts and the primary school building. The discussion then turned to holding a meeting twice a year, not opening the museum/s and just maintaining the primary school as best as possible. The society decided to meet twice a year.

Dave volunteered to take the Secretary position and Karen the Vice-President's position.

The motion failed.

Roger moved to have the Secretary cast one vote for all the officers. Seconded by John with a unanimous vote.

New Business:

Topic: Meeting schedule for 2021

The society will meet on December 13, 2021 at 6:30pm.

Due to COVID-19 pandemic the society will not hold any presentations.

John stated that he has less impact on requesting corporate donations since he has been retired from the bank. He believes North Shore Bank is still following COVID-19 protocols which would make it hard to hold the Fall Festival therefore the event will not be held in 2021.

Bill informed the society that he has filed the annual reports for the society.

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Bill reviewed the insurance policy coverage for the primary school building and its contents. He recommends removing the insurance on the contents as the artifacts are not replaceable. The members agreed and Bill will speak with the insurance agent.

Bill asked if the electricity should be disconnected as there are no funds coming in and soon or later what funds are available will run out. He stated the annual cost is around \$228.78 which is a monthly charge for the meter. Ron recommends that Bill check with the insurance agent to see if we can disconnect the service and still have coverage for the building. Bill will ask when he calls about updating the coverage.

The society received an email asking if we would want books about the pipeline that goes through the town. The books are not specific to Newton, so the society decided to not take them.

Reports of Curators & Committee Chairpersons:

Curators: The Marshall House roof has been replaced. There is still the barn roof and windows on the cobbler's shed that need repairs. Dave will look at the cobbler's shed windows to see if he can fix them.

Ron reported that the back of the primary school needs to be painted.

Historian: Roger reported that he had several requests that he answered. One request was about a diary by a woman that once lived in town. The diary was written while the woman was in another town. The society did not accept the diary. Another request was for information from a resident that found half a gravestone on his property. Cheryl provided some background information about the family. A third request was for information about a WPA sewing project. Roger did not find any information on the project. Cheryl will ask her neighbor about the project.

Bill received a request from the Newton Postmaster requesting copies of pictures of previous post office buildings that were in town. Karen will look for photos that would be relevant.

Archivist: Karen informed the society that 7 items have been added to the archive. She would like to get the database backed up. Mary will get the backup drive from Town Hall.

Programs: No report

Web Site Status: Mary stated that there have been 306 visitors to the website since August 2020. The domain name will need to be renewed in May of 2022. The hosting fee is due in November 2022. The cost for both is \$315 for 5-years. Mary will contact Bill about paying for these services.

Correspondence: Already addressed

Other: No other business

Next Meeting: Monday December 13, 2021, 6:30 PM at the Sargent Woods Community Center.

Bill Landry adjourned the meeting at 7:40 PM.

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Respectfully submitted,

Diane Morin, Secretary