

Newton Historical Society

Minutes of April 11, 2022
Sargent Woods Community Center

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

Diane Morin called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

*Note** Dave Simpson, Karen O'Malley, Barbara DiBartolomeo arrived at 6:30pm.

Secretary's Report – David Simpson

Sally Woodman made a motion to accept the minutes from December 13, 2021. Cheryl Saunders seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report – Bill Landry

Dec. 2021 to March 2022 account expenditures.

The Money Market income was from interest and Mailbox refund. Expenses are Unitil (\$55.35), AHSNH Dues (\$10.00), NHHS Dues (\$50.00) Mary Riordan moved to accept the treasurer's report as written. Seconded by John Meserve with a unanimous vote.

Old Business:

Hayford Carriage: Bill informed the society that he reached out Mr. Brien asking for an estimate to restore the carriage seats. He did not receive a response as of this meeting.

Fund Raising: John suggested we revive the Fall Festival. The members agreed that it would be good to hold the event again. John will spearhead the event. He will reach out to North Shore Bank and ask if October 15 would be available to hold the event there.

P.O. Box: Bill informed the members that the Post Office box is now at the Newton Junction Post Office. The cost of the box is \$56 versus \$134 at the Main Street Post Office. The new mailing address has been updated with all the organizations, the society correspondence including the website.

Primary School: David Simpson has cut and removed all the overgrown brush and branches on the school property.

New Business:

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Marshall House: Ron Saunders informed us that the ceiling in the kitchen is falling down. Because the house belongs to the town, he recommends informing the town officials of the issue. Diane Morin stated that the town does not have the financial resources to fix the building. She stated that the building is not used so why spend taxpayers' money on it. There was discussion on whether to remove items that we felt were of value and give the house back to the Town. Upon further discussion, Ron will move the contents of the kitchen to another room. Cheryl and Ron will address the Board of Selectmen at their April 19th meeting to inform them of the damage to the kitchen.

Dave Simpson mentioned another issue in the Marshall House. There seems to be some black tar and other material from a past roof repair on some of the items stored in the eaves. Ron Saunders will move any items necessary.

Cobbler windows: After some discussion, it was decided to leave the two windows boarded up for now.

Primary School: It was brought to the attention of the members that the primary school needs a new roof. A discussion took place on how to pay for the repairs. It was decided to promote the Fall Festival as a fund raiser to repair the roof.

Fall Festival: October 15th, 2022, has been selected as a tentative date for the fall festival. Bill Landry will talk the folks at North Shore Bank to confirm.

Curators: Ron and Cheryl Saunders.

Primary School Museum Damage: Ron Saunders has identified several areas where critters may have access into the school and will begin patching up these spots. Society had discussed possibly packing some of the historic items in plastic totes for protection. Ron Saunders will check on the condition of the school periodically.

Historian: Roger Hamel.

Roger received an email from Cathy Gove whose father was born in Newton. Pictures include the farm, WWII, mother Nellie May Whittier, father Charles Gove, Grandmother Nellie (Smith) Whittier, Genk Whittier all of whom lived in Newton. The consensus from the society was that if the pictures depicted Newton specifically then they would be of interest. Roger will follow up with Cathy.

Archivist: Karen O'Malley. A gentleman Damon DiMauro from Gordon college came by to look at the Primary School Museum. He took pictures and expressed an interest in some of the articles. He stated he would be back.

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Web Site Status: Mary Riordan had stated 300 unique visitors to the website. The five-year domain name and web hosting renewal is up this year. Mary had provided the group with an options sheet with cost comparisons for the different plans available. Ron Saunders made a motion to accept the five years, 33% off plan for \$514.30. not to exceed \$520.00 Roger Hamel seconded the motion and the motion was accepted.

Correspondence: None

Next Meeting: Monday, December 19th 2022, 6:00 PM at the Sargent Woods Community Center.

Diane Morin adjourned the meeting at 7:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

David Simpson,
Secretary