

Newton Historical Society

Minutes of April 10, 2023
Sargent Woods Community Center

Members present:	Diane Morin	David Simpson	Mary Riordan	Sally Woodman
John Meserve	Bill Landry	Roger Hamel	Marilyn Landry	Kale Amato
Kathy Meserve				

Dave Simpson called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

Secretary's Report – David Simpson

Mary Riordan made a motion to accept the minutes from December 12, 2022 meeting. Marilyn Landry seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report – Bill Landry

The Money Market income was from interest. Expenses were Unutil (\$18.38), purchase of financial software (\$41.99). Mary Riordan moved to accept the treasurer's report as written. Seconded by Diane Morin, with a unanimous vote.

Old Business:

- Replacement of the roof on the Primary Schoolhouse Museum was completed in Jan.
- Dave S. will connect with Ron S. regarding work on the cobbler shop windows at the Marshall House.

New Business:

- Annual Reports: Bill L. reported that the all state and federal reports were submitted and approved by the D. O. J. Tax exemption forms were submitted to the Town of Newton.
- The NH D. O. J accepted the society's request to again submit our annual reports on a 5-year cumulative basis. This saves us \$300.00 over the course of the five years.
- Primary Schoolhouse Insurance: Bill L. reported that replacement coverage of the building and its contents was removed from the policy whereas the building and contents are historic and irreplaceable. We are now covered for \$1,000,000.00 in personal liability. This change reduced our annual insurance cost from \$969.00 to \$472.00.
- John Meserve was elected to the society Board of Directors. This meets the NH D. O. J. requirement of five members on the board. The other members are; Dave Simpson, Karen O'Malley, Bill Landry and Ron Saunders.
- 2023 meeting schedule:
 - Sept. 11 – Primary reason is to plan the Fall Festival
 - Dec. 11 – Final 2023 meeting and members Christmas Party

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New Business: (Cont.)

- Fall Festival – Sat. Oct. 14. John M. suggested that we might be able to increase attendance as well as sponsors if we had a Newton related project that we were trying to fund. Such as the recent roof replacement of the Primary Schoolhouse Museum.

After some discussion, it was decided that a project to restore one or all of the society's three horse drawn carriages would be a good way to get the residents attention. The two Hayford Carriages we own, were built in Newton in the mid 1800's. If repaired, we could make them available for the Newton "Old Home Day" celebration. (Weather permitting)

New society member Kale Amato volunteered to approach contacts that she has in the carriage repair business. Dave S. and Bill L. will provide access to Kale and her contacts to view the carriages that are stored in the Marshall House barn. *NOTE: The date has been set for Friday Apr. 14.*

Other:

- Dave S. was contacted by Mr. Richard Turner regarding artifacts from R. S. Mulliken, a Nobel Prize winning chemist who lived in Newton. The Mulliken descendants are looking to donate his papers to the appropriate organization for proper preservation. Dave will contact Mr. Turner. *NOTE: Roger H. followed up on this and could not find any connection between this man and the town of Newton, NH.*
- Dave S. was contacted by Carol Baird who has some items from the Newton Grange. Dave will obtain the items and turn them over to our Curator Ron S. for review and disposition.
- Bill L. received a few artifacts from Newton resident Patricia Estabrook. Two booklets will be turned over to Ron S. for his review and disposition. Another item, an 8 mm film of what is believed to be the celebration of either the 200th or 250th anniversary of Newton's founding. Mary R. believes she she can obtain an old 8mm projector. The film will be reviewed as soon as a projector is available.

.Historian: Roger Hamel.

- Received a request from Annastashia Parke regarding information on the property at 62 North Main St. in Newton. Roger was able to provide her with information going back to the mid 19th century on the building that was built in 1790.
- Received a request from Leeanne Aden. She was looking for information on the Currier Homestead and her ancestors. Roger provided her with information on the Old Currier Tavern and the large acreage of land in Newton that was owned by her ancestors.
- Received a request from Rod Schena. He was looking for maps from the 16th and 17th centuries. We have no maps. Suggested he contact Amesbury or Salisbury whereas the Newton area was part of those towns prior to 1749.

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Historian: Roger Hamel. (Cont.)

- Received a request from Courtney Owens. She was seeking information on 14 Main St. that was built in 1842. Tracked info back to 1882 when a Michel F. Hoyt sold the property. The back half of the current Gale Library lot was a part of this lot until 1955.
- Stephen Williams contacted the society regarding a book he had written about a former Newton resident, Ben Drew, who was one of the last of the stage coach drivers. Roger had previously done research on this back in 2019. He will retrieve the info and pass it on.

PROGRAMS:

- It was decided to take a look at possibly restarting the society's program presentations for the public with one program this year. These programs which are offered at no cost to the public, typically cost the society about \$200.00. Sally W. and Marilyn L. are going to take a look at what is available, and the cost.

WEB SITE:

Mary Riordan stated there were 400 + unique visitors to the website. The five-year domain name and web hosting was renewed.

Correspondence: None

Next Meeting: Monday, Sept. 11, 2023 at 6:00 PM at the Sargent Woods Community Center.

Dave Simpson adjourned the meeting at 7:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

William Landry,