

Newton Historical Society

Minutes of Dec. 11, 2023
Sargent Woods Community Center

ATTENDEES:	Karen O'Malley	David Simpson	Mary Riordan	Barb DiBartolomeo
John Meserve	Bill Landry	Roger Hamel	Marilyn Landry	Kale Amato
Kathy Meserve	Jane Hamel	Cheryl Simpson	Ron Saunders	Cheryl Saunders
Lindsey Dionne	Susan Peterson	Stan Duncan		

Dave Simpson called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM.

Secretary's Report – Bill Landry

Mary Riordan made a motion to accept the minutes from the April 2023 meeting. Karen O'Malley seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report – Bill Landry

Nov. 2023 activity.

Account	Income	Expenses	
Money Market	\$100.23	\$1,109.41	

The Money Market income was from interest and a \$100.00 Fall Festival donation. Expenses were Unutil (\$18.59), annual schoolhouse insurance (\$477.00), transfer of Bicentennial funds (\$613.82). Marilyn Landry moved to accept the treasurer's report as written. Seconded by Cheryl Saunders, Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Current / Old Business:

- Hayford carriages repair update: Kathy Cappucci of KC Custom Sewing Co has taken the single seat on the Concord carriage and the two seats on the Democrat carriage to her shop. The carriages will be ready for use in the Newton 275th Anniversary Celebration scheduled for Sept. of 2024. The cost to replace the "stuffing" and repair the seats is \$2,000.00. A down payment of \$1,100.00 was given to Kathy. The \$900.00 balance is due upon completion of the work.
- The 15th society Fall Festival was held in October and was quite successful. The income, from the festival, which was less than some past years, will more than cover the cost of the Hayford Carriage restorations. A short discussion was held regarding possibly ending the Fall Festival. However, as John Meserve pointed out, we probably should not do that the year of Newton's 275th anniversary celebration. There will be a 2024 festival.
- Dave Simpson reported that the barn at the Marshall House, which typically shows signs of animal infestation, in the past few months has worsened to a terrible condition. He will look into putting some type of pest deterrent in the barn. In the mean time Ron Saunders is going to clean out the mess the animals have created.

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New Business:

- Three Newton residents were welcomed as new members of the Society. The new members are: Lindsey Dionne, Stan Duncan, and Susan Peterson.
- The election of officers for 2024 was held. The officers for the coming year changed very little. We are happy to announce that Kale Amato offered to fill the vacant seat of Secretary of the society.

President – David Simpson, Vice President – Karen O'Malley, Secretary – Kale Amato, Treasurer – Bill Landry. A motion to accept the officers was made by Roger Hamel, seconded by Marilyn Landry. Vote to accept was unanimous.

- The Society Board of Directors is made up of the above elected members and John Meserve who was appointed to the board last year. This meets the D. O. J. requirement of at least five members on the Board of Directors for a 501-c-3 tax exempt organization.
- Newton's 275th Anniversary celebration: Several committees have been put in place to formulate and execute various activities associated with this 2024 celebration. The main celebration will be part of the planned "OLD HOME DAY" celebration scheduled for mid-September 2024. The Historical committee is made up of Historical Society members, Stan Duncan, Susan Peterson, David Simpson, Bill Landry and two additional Newton residents.

On Dec. 16th a Community Open house will be held upstairs at the Newton Junction Fire House. The Historical committee will be showing 12 slide shows depicting various facets of Newton's history. These slide shows are also posted on the Society web site.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Curators:

- Several items that were donated to the society were turned over to the Curators for review.
- Curators Ron and Cheryl Saunders advised the board that they would be stepping down from their positions at the end of this year. Efforts will be made to replace them in 2024. We thank both Ron and Cheryl for their efforts and support over the past years.
- Dave Simpson will look into putting up some type of "wrap" to cover the deteriorating exterior walls and windows of the Cobbler's shed at the Marshall House Museum, to protect it until the issues can be corrected next spring.

Historian: Roger Hamel.

- There were no requests for historical information from the public in the period since the last meeting.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS (Cont.)

Archivist:

- Nothing to report

PROGRAMS:

- The program “It reminds me of a story” was put on for the public on Sept. 20th at the Newton Town Hall. The event was very well attended. The vast majority of attendees were from outside of Newton. It appeared that many of the attendees were fans of Rebecca Rule who put on the program. The possibility of sponsoring more programs in 2024 will be discussed at the next meeting in April.

WEB SITE:

- Mary Riordan stated there was a marked increase in unique visitors to the website. There were over 600 visits. Typically, there are about 400 visitors. The feeling was that one reason for the increase may have been the recent publication of plans for the 275th celebration as well as information publicized about the historic slide shows that are available on the Society’s web site.
- The society web site was renewed until 2027.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

Next Meeting: Monday, April 8, 2024 at 6:00 PM at the Sargent Woods Community Center.

Dave Simpson adjourned the meeting at 7:03 PM.

OTHER: At the end of the meeting the members participated in our annual Christmas party. Everyone enjoyed the beverages, the food, and the Yankee Swap

Respectfully submitted,

William Landry,

Interim Secretary