

Newton Historical Society

Minutes of April 15, 2024
Sargent Woods Community Center

Members present:	Bill Landry	Dave Simpson	Karen O'Malley	Barb DiBartolomeo
	John Meserve	Diane Morin	Susan Peterson	Stan Duncan
	Kathy Meserve	Roger Hamel		

Dave Simpson called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Secretary's Report: Bill Landry made a motion to accept the minutes from the December 11, 2023 meeting. Susan Peterson seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report:

The Money Market income was from interest. Expenses were for the electric bill. Diane Morin made a motion to accept the March 31, 2024 Treasurer's Report. Stan Duncan seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Bill Landry reported that he has submitted the NH Dept. of Justice Annual Report for 2023. The NH Dept. of Justice has approved the 5-year filing exemption for the Historical Society. Bill has submitted the tax exemption forms to the Newton Assessor.

The Newton 275th Anniversary Committee had approached Bill about using the Historical Society as a vehicle for accepting donations and taking advantage of the Society's 501-c-3 tax exemption status. After Bill investigated this matter with the NH Dept. of Justice, the Historical Society Board decided that this would jeopardize our 5-year filing exemption. The Board voted to decline the 275th Committee's request. The 275th Committee applied for and received their 503-c-3 tax exemption status.

Old Business:

Cobbler Shop Windows: Dave Simpson explained that the back wall and windows of the Cobbler Shop are in poor condition. He has the building materials to repair some of the damage and will look for windows to replace the current ones. Bill Landry will speak with the Board of Selectmen about this, as the town owns the building.

New Business:

Curator's Position: We need a volunteer to assume the Curator's position. Please contact Dave Simpson if you are interested.

Newton 275th Anniversary Celebration: Dave Simpson, Bill Landry, Susan Peterson, and Stan Duncan are members of the 275th Anniversary Committee. The Historical Society plans to display its Hayford Carriages (1 or 2) at Olde Home Day and in the parade. We may also open the School House Museum to the public at that time. Diane Morin stated that the Marshall House is not structurally safe enough to hold a public open house. Work is progressing on the restoration of the two Hayford Carriages.

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October Fall Festival: John Meserve suggested that the Fall Festival be held on Saturday, October 19, 2024. There will be a planning meeting to be held at a later date. John will send out fundraising letters as he has done in past years.

Committee Reports:

Curators: No official report. Dave still has a box of materials given to NHS by Danville, He will take it to the Primary School Museum and fill out the accession papers. Karen will then proceed with archiving the materials.

Historian: In February, Roger responded to a request from Jay Abramovitz, who requested information on Eagle Tavern. Roger provided him with photos of the building and tavern sign. In March, Roger responded to a request from Susanna Drinkuth, who was looking for the history of 29 Peaslee Crossing Road, at one time part of Peaslee Farm, and some information on the Peaslees. Roger invited both parties to visit the NHS museum.

Archivist: Karen O'Malley had nothing new to report.

Programs: There are no new programs planned at this time. Diane Morin welcomes any suggestions from the membership.

Web Site Status: No report. Bill mentioned the possibility of including a link from the NHS webpage to the Newton 275th Committee webpage.

Correspondence: None

Next Meeting: Monday December 9, 2024 (Christmas Party) at the Sargent Woods Community Center. (The Board will hold a meeting to plan the Fall Festival at a date to be determined.)

Dave Simpson adjourned the meeting at 6:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Meserve
Acting Secretary