

Newbury Historical Society
September 9 2015

Board members present: Gay Sheary, Bill Weiler, Margie Weiler, Claire Vannatta, Deane Geddes, and Ashley Geddes, Marilyn Soper, Paula Falkowski. **Members present:** Marty Sheary

Bill called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Minutes: The Minutes of 5/14/2015 were accepted, with 2 typo corrections. Several members requested that the minutes be sent using .pdf format not Word.

Treasurer's Report: Claire reported for that as of the end of June the Conservation Fund balance remained \$974.20, the Life Member Fund balance remained \$5,200.00, and the operating fund was \$17,474.40. The checking account total was \$898.49 and the savings account \$17,541.40. Income since the last meeting included \$200 from the memberships and \$60 from donations. Expenses included \$193.80 for publicity. Bill asked Claire to check whether this was our year to renew our registration with the Secretary of State.

Membership: Marilyn reported that the current totals are 51 family, individual, and complementary members and 32 life members for a total of 83. She has made a list of 78 former members whose last renewal was May 2012, or later. She suggested sending special renewal notices to these and circulated the list for comments from the Board. The Board agreed to send notices to these, with a self-addressed envelope and a letter describing the benefits of membership.

OLD BUSINESS:

Board Vacancy: Bill suggested that John Lyons be asked to the join the board. All agreed.

Archives: Linda Plunkett, Town Clerk, has agreed to transfer the Tax Inventory books for the years 1885 – 1950 to the Sherman Hall archives. These books are of particular interest to the Historical Society because they are valuable as evidence for determining when houses have been added to a property. Margie noted that the material needs formal accession in the PastPerfect records.

The Town is cleaning out the basement of the Town Office Building to make space for a fireproof room. As a result, the Town is donating a box of ephemera from the Information Booth.

Bill suggested to Paula that, for a future project, she could start transcribing Town vital records, which are stored in Sherman Hall. He noted that there is a gap from about 1860 to 1890 in the transcriptions done earlier by Cliff Ayer.

History Committee: Deane reported that their recent meeting featured Marilyn Soper and Maralyn Doyle who talked about their efforts to repair the South Newbury meetinghouse and to prepare an application to place the meetinghouse and Friendship House on the State Register of Historic Places.

Their next cellar hole visit will be to property on Birch Bluff next to Mike Croteau, thought by Ernest Sherman to be the site of the first town meeting. Another will be the site of the Jonathan Rowe house whose photograph was shown in Tracy Messer's Annual Meeting talk. Paula said this property was included in a walk by Dave Anderson. It was suggested that he be a possible future annual meeting speaker.

Maralyn Doyle told the story of the big 1868 fire in South Newbury village that extended from King Gillingham's hotel to the cupola on the meetinghouse. Marilyn Soper found the entire story in the New Hampshire Historical Society newspaper archives. She noted that they have issues of the Argus newspapers on microfilm that the Richards Library collection does not have.

South Newbury Buildings: A discussion of new signs was resumed from earlier meetings. Margie argued for replacing the existing faded gold-on-green signs (not at all visible) with signs like those on the Town Hall, black on white. She also suggested a sign extending from the corner of the building. Bill wanted to keep the green but replace the faded gilt with gold leaf. Marilyn suggested moving the 2 signs to above the 2 windows. The group agreed to a field trip in the fall.

House Markers: Gay reported they still are working on a new marker for the Town Hall. Bill said he has concluded from tax inventory records that Harriet Fingerth's house was built in 1901, not 1900 as in the assessor's records. He also suggested changing the house age specification from 1901 to "built more than 100 years ago." All agreed. Gay will write a new letter and Margie will make the change on the web site.

Newsletter: Deane suggested the next one be this fall, and it include the story of the Elijah Grace as gleaned from his civil war letters and an update to the cellar hole work.

Sunapee School House: Bill reported that the building has now been demolished. His suggestion that the site be transferred to the Town met with an objection from DRED because of the more complicated boundary being created and the requirements for permanent easement for the snowmaking water line. They prefer a volunteer maintenance agreement under an MOA. Bill and Deane will meet with them. Bill said that it would be nice to have cedars planted to obscure the pipeline. DRED will provide an interpretative tablet with a picture of the old schoolhouse, which Bill would supply. He needs to see if the Town can help with mowing.

Web Site: Margie has updated the house marker page and thanked Gay for the photograph of the house on Lake Avenue. She asked Deane for information to update the Cane page and was told that was Bill's responsibility.

NEW BUSINESS:

Committee Memberships: The following committee memberships were confirmed: Membership: Marilyn; Cane: Deane; Archives: Bill, Deane, Margie; Annual Meeting: Gay, Ashley; History: Deane and many others; South Newbury Buildings: Paula, Bill, Marilyn; Newsletter: Deane, Paula, Ashley; Old Home Day: Bill.

Election of Officers: The Marilyn moved and Paula second a motion to elect the following officers: President: Bill, Vice-President: Deane; Treasurer: Claire; Secretary: Margie. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Margie Weiler, Secretary

MEETING DATES: Board Meetings (2nd Thursday, odd months): **November 4** (Note Special Date!); **January 14; March 10**