

Newbury Historical Society
January 14 2016

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

Bill called the meeting to order at **7:06 PM**.

Minutes: The Minutes of 9/9/2015 were accepted, with three corrections: The meeting times were corrected, and Deane's report on the Newsletter was added.

Treasurer's Report: Claire reported there were excellent returns on the mailing to lapsed members including donations of \$480. The mailing gave details of our recent activities which motivated some to join. As of the end of December the Conservation Fund balance remained \$974.20, the Life Member Fund balance remained \$5,400.00, and the operating fund was \$18,341.33 The checking account total was \$729.19 and the savings account \$18,464.39. Income in November and December was \$1000.81 including \$510 for memberships. Expenses were \$7 for a service fee, and \$148 for website maintenance.

Membership: Bill gave a report for Marilyn: The current membership is 32 life members, 41 individual, 42 family, 1 business and 6 complementary for a total of 122. These were 85 renewals, 24 lapsed renewals, 8 new for current year and 1 new life member. Dues totaled \$1550, donations \$1035.

Announcements:

Claire announced that she was resigning as of May 31. The members expressed sadness as noted by Deane. Claire will send a letter.

OLD BUSINESS:

Board Vacancy: Bill said that he is still looking.

Archives: Bill said he is helping a student at Vermont College who is working on a paper about his Cutler ancestors, and that they were "obscure but married well." Claire asked if Bill had information for Marilyn about the Shermans. Deane is interested because he has a connection to the family. There are some notable Shermans in the Marshall Cemetery.

History Committee: Deane said that the group had not been able to do more cellar hole surveys this fall because of schedule conflicts but there is quite a bit of interest still. A new member is George West of Sunapee Bed and Breakfast who is interested in joining the group's activities including their South Newbury deed research. John Lyons will talk to them about the Morse family next month; they will invite some people they think are interested. Deane shared a story about Hannah Dustin which also interested others on the Board.

House Markers: Gay has presented a new marker to Harriet Fingerroth and her husband. The owner of the "Headmaster's House" on Bowles Road has asked for help with deed research; there is a link to Thorton Wilder. Bill suggested that Deane's group might help with this. Gay also asked about "Camp Comfort" owned by the Rowe family on Bowles Road; Bill said there were pictures in our "Picture Book" which might be of this house. Gay was not sure where the camp was located, perhaps Bratt's Cove. Gary York has asked about the former Lawrenceville Academy Headmaster's house on Echo Cove

Road, built in 1920; Bill says he as 5 more years to wait for a marker. Deane said that the Rowe family owned most of the land in that area. Margie asked for an updated list of houses for the web site.

Annual Meeting: No report. Bill said that we need to start working on this soon.

Newsletter: Deane said that the committee will be working on one for the spring renewal mailing.

Web Site: Margie has put up a new link to the Richards Free Library web site which allows digital searching of local newspapers.

NEW BUSINESS:

Life Memberships: Bill passed along Marilyn's suggestion that we are not charging enough for life membership and that we either raise the amount to \$250 for individuals and \$500 for couples or eliminate them altogether. Because interest rates are so low life members end up costing the organization if they don't make donations. Claire said that many do. The initial reaction was that the new suggested amounts were too high and that life memberships are valuable in retaining member interest. Deane suggested postponing this until the next meeting. Bill views these memberships as a convenience in that people might not keep joining, but thinks we should raise the cost. He also did not support Marilyn's idea of family life memberships because of the difficulty in defining who qualifies. Our current family membership only includes husband and wife.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Weiler, Secretary

MEETING DATES: Board Meetings (2nd Thursday, odd months): **March 10, May 12, July 14.**