

Newbury Historical Society
March 10 2016

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

Bill called the meeting to order at **7:07 PM**.

Minutes: The Minutes of 1/14/2016 were accepted, with one correction: Claire is resigning as of May 31 not June 1.

Treasurer's Report: Claire reported that the account balances were checking \$898.61, savings \$18675.93, 3year cd\$2,575.42, 30-48 mo cd \$2924.53, and 22.00 in cash for a total of \$25,096.49. There was membership income of \$270 for individuals and \$200 for a life membership for Tom Vannatta, a donation of \$20, and a payment of \$290 for the new Sherman Hall signs. As of the end of February the Conservation Fund balance remained \$974.20, the Life Member Fund balance had increased to \$5,800.00, and the operating fund was \$18,452.29.

Announcements:

Bill announced that Marilyn Soper had resigned immediately. The members expressed regret. Paula has agreed to take over the Secretary position so that Margie can take over the Treasurer position, all as of June 1.

OLD BUSINESS:

Annual Meeting: Gay reported that Paul Wainwright has agreed to present the program on Colonial Meeting Houses on August 14, at the Center Meeting House. The Humanities Council requires a spacing of 15 minutes be provided between our Annual Meeting and the presentation so they want our publicity for the talk to say 2:15 instead of 2:00. Bill was able to get our notice in PALS which says 2:00; this can't be changed. After discussion the Board agreed to start the Annual Meeting at 2:00 and have our publicity for the meeting say 2:00 and that the talk will follow a short Annual Meeting. Wainwright has offered to help with materials for our publicity. Gay said that he won't include our CMH because it was not built before 1800. Gay will talk with Joy about having the CMH help with that and also to notify the other area meeting houses. Bill suggested using their mailing list. Ashley will make sure the publicity mentions the Humanities Council support.

Archives: Bill reported that Deane is taking over the Sherman Hall monitoring control system. He also said that he and Deane are co-administrators of a new Society "cloud" website that is free for non-profit organizations. He has a lot of material to upload from his old personal site.

House Markers: Gay said there was no new activity. Deane said that he had cleaned up the Town Hall sign but Gay said that she has already put up a new one, and that Bruce is making a new blank. There was a discussion of preceding the dates by "c" meaning "circa." Margie has corrected the web site list to remove the "c" if the date is known. Claire suggested that the new people in the Surette's house might be interested; Deane said that he thought the house dated to about 1790. Gay said that she will talk to some people in Blodgett's Landing whose house now probably qualifies. Deane also said that the owner of the 1806 house was ill and sold it to a new family who might be interested in getting a marker for that house.

History Committee: Deane talked about the York home, "most certainly" once a summer school for Lawrenceville Academy, and has found a poster for the Lake Sunapee Summer School where Thornton Wilder taught. Claire suggested a story on this for our newsletter. Bill offered to scan his pictures for from the book rather than the web since he can remove the half tone. Bill has identified 2 possible locations for Camp Comfort, possibly at different times. Deane, at Paula's suggestion, asked Dave Anderson to lead a cellar hole hike for them. The cost is \$250 a half day or \$500 a full day which might be shared with the Fells. Unfortunately Dave is already booked through October. To help in their property research Deane is working on a summary of the tools he uses and Bill is adding the box inventory. Claire would like to share with others but Deane and Bill encouraged her to get them to work with the group. Deane reported on the group's visit to John Lyons' house which was very interesting; it dates back to the 1700's.

Newsletter: Deane said that the committee will be ready for the spring renewal mailing; they last met February 1. Ashley reminded them that Barbara Steward is returning March 15 and wants the material by then.

Old Home Day: Bill will ask Dennis for a better space than last year, in front of the library, preferably the easternmost parking space. Paula said she could arrange that herself.

South Newbury Buildings: Paula said that the new signs have been put up and Bill asked if there should be any more. The consensus was that these were enough. Bill said that the new resident in Benjamin Morse's house might be interested in a house marker after she gets settled. Bill reported that his Town Meeting proposal for a maintenance fund failed to pass. He will keep giving suggestions to the Board of Selectmen for expenditures from the general building fund. He is supposed to measure the windows which are ready for the restorer. He will look for someone to make a plan for the electric wiring. Dennis has asked him to go ahead with an "urgently-needed" list for the Selectmen; that includes the windows as well as the electricity. The floor has already been repaired and the old furnace removed. The only really expensive work remaining would be bathrooms and a parking lot. A first goal is to have the Historical Society meet there.

Web Site: Margie continues to keep the web site up to date.

Life Memberships: Following last meeting's discussion, the Board did not want to raise the cost of life membership but did discuss adding a Family Life Membership. Margie proposed calling it a Couple membership to be clear that children are not included, but the others did not like that name. Paula moved that we keep our Life Membership at \$200 and add a Family Life Membership at \$300. Gay seconded and the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS: None

Bill reminded the Board that we now have 3 vacancies and asked everyone to look for candidates.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Weiler, Secretary

MEETING DATES: Board Meetings (2nd Thursday, odd months): **May 12, July 14, Sept 8.**