

Newbury Historical Society
Minutes
July 14, 2016

Board members present: Gay Sheary, Bill Weiler, Margie Weiler, Paula Falkowski, Deane Geddes and Ashley Geddes

Bill called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Minutes: The Minutes of May 12, 2016 were accepted.

Treasurer's Report: See attached. Margie noted that there were no new life members, including the new family life member category. Bill pointed out that we were voting to change the bylaws on the new life member category at our upcoming annual meeting and that an insert regarding this was added to the last newsletter. In reviewing the report, we wondered if moving some of the monies in savings into CDs might make sense for a better return. Bill said he would like to eliminate the complimentary members from the report. We discussed membership numbers and the hope that we will see an increase at the annual meeting. We will also plan on sending out a second mailing later in the year, perhaps using updated software with a mail merge.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Board Vacancies: Bill pointed out that the President's message in the last newsletter regarding vacancies on the board resulted in one response. However, the respondent was only interested in sitting in on the meetings. Bill suggested the monthly history committee meetings might be more suitable to that person.

Membership: See above remarks in the Treasurer's Report.

Annual Meeting: The annual meeting will be on August 14, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. in the Center Meeting House. Gay said that refreshments will be served under a tent following the program. In the event of rain, she has reserved space in the Vet's Hall. We should arrive around 1:00, along with a refreshment item. The NHS is co-sponsoring this event with the CMH. Maureen Rosen from the CMH is planning to send out some sort of reminder for them and Ashley is working on our publicity. We will have a short business meeting beforehand. Last year's minutes will be read and Gay and Paula will be up for reelection. Bill will introduce the program speaker, Paul Wainwright.

Archives: Paula gave Bill a packet of photos, documents and clippings she received from Lawrence Cote, Museum Director of the Newport Historical Society, which contained information relating to Newbury.

House Markers: Gay reported she had cross-referenced our list with the town list and came up with some 40 potential buildings. She also met with Bruce McKenzie and the Blodgett Landing Cottage Owners Association at their annual meeting in July, where six interested parties came forward. Bill reported that Joe Spaulding called him regarding his house on Route 103, which was the former home of Mr. Brockway, a former Newbury station master. Gay referenced the house on her list and found that it was built circa 1890. Deane will contact the Spauldings regarding deed research and getting a house marker.

History Committee: Margie was the only person not in attendance at our two field trips to former railroad sites throughout Newbury. Deane said that one significant find was Craig McKenzie's noticing cinder on the ground close to the former Perkins store and a new foundation. The State highway went through in the 1950s, and the building may have been moved. Deane reached out to Chandler Perkins and is waiting to hear back. We also discussed the concrete rail holders at a South Newbury site, which may have been the beginning of the steep grade to the Newbury Cut.

Newsletter: Nothing to report at this time.

Old Home Day: Bill said he decided not to attend this year's Old Home Day after he looked at the program and decided that it was more kid-oriented. He's also not satisfied with our presentation to the public and we need a draw. We discussed spending money on some kind of photo display for future use. Margie mentioned we had a good attendance when we were in the old train.

South Newbury Buildings: Paula said that she heard from Joy Nowell regarding possibly applying for a "Moose grant" for the curtains in the Old Town Hall and Vets Hall. Gay provided the contact information of Christine Hadsel of Curtains Without Borders (802-863-4938) if we wanted to get a quote. Bill said that we have used such grants in the past. He said that someone looked at the curtains in the Old Town Hall in the past, and they were not of high quality. Bill also reported that he was tasked by Dennis to measure the windows in the Old Town Hall and to make an electrical plan.

Website: Margie has been updating Minutes and meetings. She suggested the group check out the "What's New" section on the website.

Old Business:

Life Memberships: We'll vote at the Annual Meeting to update from five to six the classes of membership.

Board Candidates: See above remarks in Board Vacancies.

New Business: Gay mentioned the former casino at Blodgett Landing and the possibility of putting up a plaque with a picture of the place. The land is owned by the Cottage Owners Association, which was donated by the Bowles family. Bill suggested Gay contact the State Department of Resources of Economic Development to see if they have any recommendations for plaque makers.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Paula Falkowski, Secretary

MEETING DATES:

Annual Meeting: August 14, 2016

Board Meetings: September 8 and November 10, 2016