

Wilmot Historical Society Minutes
Board Meeting Wilmot Town Office
May 7, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Liz Kirby at 5:30 PM

Present were Board members Liz Kirby, Catherine Stearns, Bruce Sanborn, Mary, Fanelli, Brenda Gessner, Julie Morse, and Carolyn Rayno. Also present Luan Clark and Karen Hanson.

Minutes— as the minutes from the April 10 meeting were not ready for review, Liz gave a bit of an overview of that meeting.

Treasurer's Report —Bruce presented the report that was previously emailed with the agenda, He also reported that he received a bill for renewal of our liability insurance, after which followed a brief discussion.

Mary pointed out that the Community Center requires a minimal 500,000/1,000,000 policy. Our current policy is 1,000,000/2,000,000.

As decided by the board, Bruce will renew our current policy. Bruce will also look into whether or not we need Board Liability insurance going forward.

The treasurers report was accepted by all.

Bruce also reported that we received a request for donation from the Farmer's Market. We decided not to do that, but may rent a table at some point to share information and collect donations for our building project.

OLD BUSINESS

Program Committee— We plan to hold the program "Stark Decency" by Allen Coop, at the Town Hall at 3 PM on Sunday, May 18. Carolyn reported that Allen requested that we provide the video equipment and that there will be someone there who knows how to use it. Glynis has offered the library's equipment for our use by someone knows how to use it, or she can be there instead if needed. Also, Allen offered to do the program for free.

Mary is currently reading Allen's book and says it's fabulous and fascinating.

Liz reports that though she left the form requesting the use of the Town Hall at the town offices for the Town Administrator, she has not heard back from her. As an alternative, Liz has gotten permission to use the church if needed.

Liz suggested it would be nice to give Allen \$100. That was voted on and accepted by all.

We will be there to set up at 2:15 PM:

Catherine will pick up items from the office, including the donation box, books to sell and newsletters, and also bring cider and a pitcher

Brenda will bring a tablecloth and cookies

Carolyn will bring paper cups and cheese and crackers

Karen will bring cookies
Liz will bring napkins and plates
There is now potable water in the building.

Technology Committee— Mary reports that Paul Carnavale evaluated our computer and said that it has lots of memory and probably even more than what we need. The website has been updated, including the Memories of Wilmot page and Mary has set up each video interview with wonderful associated photos of the people interviewed. It is now much easier to find the interviews that one might be looking for.

Mary reports that Rhonda told her about a product that will record the minutes of a meeting and summarize it through AI. It cost \$158. We unanimously (and robustly) agreed to procure one. Bruce has offered to confer with his tech savvy's son, order one and learn how to use it.

Acquisitions Committee— Catherine reports that Liz has donated a photo of Fred Everdean as a boy in Wilmot Flat. There are recognizable buildings in the background. Fred later became one of the proprietors (Everdean's Store) in the succession of store owners in that building which is now the post office.

Also through the Walter Walker collection, we obtained a box of folders which contain the notes of Walters' aunt Florence Langley. The notes are from the research that Fannie did when writing her book Glimpse of the past. There are also many fascinating bits of history mixed in with those notes, many of which are answering some of the questions we have had related to Wilmot's history. The plan is to organize some of those gems and put them into binders that the public and all of us can enjoy and learn from.

Luan Clark brought two stereoscopic views of Wilmot to the meeting for donation to the WHS. One is of the Kimpton Brook rapids in Wilmot Center the other is a landscape view with buildings in the background which we have yet

NEW BUSINESS

Bandstand dinner— we discussed what band we might prefer to serve dinner at (Nick's Other Band is July 12, perhaps the Frogs?) and what simple meal we might serve (perhaps hotdogs, coleslaw and baked beans). We ultimately decided we would discuss it at our next WHS board meeting.

History Room Docents— Liz asked for everyone to think about helping out as a docent in the History Room this summer. Catherine plans to be there every Saturday morning except for one (August 30) and Julie offered to help throughout the summer. (addendum - It's great to have more than one person there during the Farmers Market because visitors often have questions and there are often too many people for one person to handle at the same time. You also get a chance to meet new residents of Wilmot and learn more about its history and the objects we have in our collection.)

Update on new building— Bruce brought preliminary copies of the survey done by Clayton Platt for us to review. He points out that when all the setbacks are considered, we will have less than an acre of land to build on. That is an issue because the Village requires a minimum of an acre for a building. Bruce will bring that information to the Selectboard meeting tomorrow and discuss with them how that can be rectified to give us at least an acre of buildable land.

Bruce has interviewed two architects, Jason McCombe from the firm Sheerer, McCrystal, and Paulson and Frank Anzalone of Frank Anzalone Associates. McCombe's price much more reasonable at \$19,500 while Anzalone would charge 10% of the entire project. Bruce also feels McCombe's approach would be in line with what we need and would be a much better fit. Bruce asked for our approval to hire McCombe, however Mary pointed out that before deciding we should all read the proposal and it was decided that he will first send each one of us a copy of their proposal for our approval which we can send back through email. We all need to respond in a timely fashion because the deadline for the WHS to accept that proposal is May 18.

FundRaising— Keith Barrett was to discuss fundraising at this meeting when it was scheduled for May 8. However, because of Wilmot Selectboard needs, our date had to be changed, and he was unable to make it tonight. Bruce will reach out to Keith next week about possibly rescheduling.

Mary will send out a copy of Roberta Grady's SCORE report that Roberta did for us in 2019. Mary suggested we have a separate fundraising meeting and will send out a time for that.

OTHER BUSINESS

We have three board members (Judy, Sara and Nola) who we have not heard from for a while and who are not attending meetings. We had a discussion about whether to contact them or what we should do.

We decided to table that for now.

Liz spoke briefly about road trips and recently connecting with the Cheshire County Historical Society who have restored an old tavern and also has also heard of a restored funeral home in Berlin which she was told was "amazing".

We plan on visiting a number of historical societies this summer, but have not decided on any dates did.

May 10 at 10:30 AM the Bristol Historical Society will feature a program on barns.

May 16, Gary Ford from the Danbury Historical Society will present a program on the history of the Danbury schools.

May 24 from 8 AM to 1200 PM The Wilmot Garden club will have. their annual plant sale which this year will include only annual plants.

On June 6 at 7 PM the Andover Historical Society will sponsor a program in the Stone Chapel presented by MaryJane Peabody about Raymond Cole of New Hampshire who died at Normandy.

NEXT GENEALOGY MEETING Thursday, May 22 at 6:30 PM

NEXT WHS MEETING

ADJOURNED 7:55 PM

Respectfully submitted by Catherine Stearns