

Wilmot Historical Society
Minutes of Meeting – April 13, 2010

The WHS Board met at the library at 9:30 Tuesday, April 13, with President Marc Davis, Vice President Lindy Heim, Secretary Janet Howe, Treasurer Julie Morse, and Directors Nola Aldrich, Esther Grace, Fred Ogmundson and Rosanna Dude present.

Marc reported on a conversation he'd had with the Planning Board in Wilmot regarding possible changes to the zoning ordinances to better protect the rural character of Wilmot. Nancy Dutton, a Wilmot resident who has worked in historic preservation at the State level, presented an overview of what's involved in preserving historic sites, homes, and neighborhoods. She pointed out that Wilmot is fortunate in that it hasn't been "gentrified" and retains much of its visual coherence.

Recognizing that Historic District designation is a very contentious, difficult process, the State recently created RSA 764:21 enabling communities to designate "Neighborhood Heritage Districts". This is community-based and is an advisory group to the local Planning Board. The website to learn details is www.NHGOV/NHDHR, quick link to the handbook.

Nancy suggested that the first step is to survey what areas/buildings/sites are of historic importance to Wilmot. Some maps already exist (Regional Environmental Protection Plan (REPP) map of 1998; current Wilmot Conservation Commission (WCC) maps; old maps and State resources. Secondly, gather information about each chosen site – why it's there, when was it built and by whom, etc. Thirdly, involve the WCC, the Planning Board, and the community.

It was decided that Marc would write a letter of support and encouragement to the Planning Board, suggesting they investigate the Neighborhood Heritage District (NHD) RSA, and stating the WHS goals (as above).

Nancy was thanked for her very valuable assistance.

Minutes of the Feb. 2 Board meeting were approved as submitted.

Treasurer was authorized to renew the 6-month CD. Checking balance \$2,626.53; CD \$20,549.04.

Question has been raised by the garden club as to how much money is available for tree planting at the **soldiers' monument**. Nola will email the amount to Marc.

Motion made, seconded, and moved to accept Lindy's expense for replacement batteries and charger for the video camera.

May meeting: Discussion regarding content/focus of the May meeting. It was agreed that the NHD idea would be a good one to explore with the community. Lindy will call

Chuck Thompson to see if he'd be willing to moderate the discussion. She'll call Nancy Dutton to see if she would take part also. Janet will contact Brian Faughnan to see if representative(s) from the WCC could participate. Two possible dates (Sunday June 6 and Sunday May 23 – both at 4 p.m.) were agreed upon. As soon as a date is determined, specific plans will be made.

Julie will check with Susan Morse as to whether or not she'll oversee the **garden** work this summer.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Howe, Secretary

NEXT MEETING – MAY 11, TUESDAY – 9:30 in the LIBRARY