

Wilmot Historical Society
Minutes of Meeting
January 17, 2020
Town Office

President Liz Kirby opened the meeting at 1:07

Present: Marc Davis, Catherine Stearns, Julie Morse, Nola Aldrich, Mary Fanelli, Judy Hauck.

Absent: Fred Ogmundson and Nancy Bates. Lindy Heim excused for winter months.

Minutes

Judy made a motion to accept the minutes of November with two grammar/spelling corrections. Nola seconded. Unanimous vote.

Treasurers Report

Mary gave the treasurer's report in Nancy's absence. She read the bills from December and January noting that \$750 was paid for the last installment of the Esther Grace video. It was also noted that Esther passed away shortly after the video was uploaded to our website.

Assets: Mascoma Bank - \$5,000 Ledyard Bank - \$1,967.82 checking and \$38,185.57 money market.
Veterans Memorial Fund - \$2,411.72.

Membership not reported.

Bills: Mary asked if we want to renew our membership in NH Preservation Alliance. Nola made a motion and Judy seconded to continue our membership. Unanimous vote.

There was also an invoice from Paul Carnevale who maintains our website, which sparked a conversation on upgrading the website to be able to more easily upload photos and be more user friendly. Mary will pursue this.

OLD BUSINESS

Committee chairs - Liz asked all of the committees to appoint a leader. She also reminded each committee to get a year-end 2019 report to Mary to attach to the minutes of the annual meeting. Marc Davis will do a 2019 report for the acquisitions committee.

After having attended Dana Dakin's marketing seminar at the library last Saturday, Liz suggested that we now refer to any *ad hoc* committee as a Task Group, which would be a short-term committee to accomplish a particular task.

Audio/video equipment - Judy will check out the status of our video equipment. It was noted that our screen is too small for large venues, but after some discussion, we decided that, for the time being, we should borrow the one from the library the few times that it is needed. Mary moved to have Judy buy a new projector. Nola seconded. Unanimous vote.

Re-interview of Harrison Hunt - Liz asked if there is a small microphone that we can attach to Harrison for the next interview as his voice is very quiet. Judy will look for the lavalier that we used for other interviews.

Feb 1 program on NH Primaries - Lindy has promoted this program in the media. Mary has created posters and ads. Liz asked if we could reach out to specific people or groups who might be interested. Mary will contact Erica Ginalski-Herr who works at Kearsarge and send her a poster as well as Brian McCarthy. Judy

will try to contact someone in the history department at Proctor. Marc and Judy will check out WCA equipment before the program.

Acquisitions - We had several donations in the past couple of months. Nancy Langley donated items from her mother Clara Langley. Clara was a Boston Cane holder. She had in her possession a book on the Boston Post Cane, which we now have back. We also received some memorabilia from Esther Grace's estate.

Veterans Memorial - This year is the 100th year anniversary of the Soldiers Monument/Veterans Memorial. Liz has spoken to the American Legion to see if they would be interested in participating in a celebration on Saturday, May 30. Memorial Day will be the Monday before. There was a lot of discussion about what we should do to commemorate the anniversary, and Liz asked that we form a task group to put together a program for that day. It should include music, some history on the Memorial, sprucing up of the grounds, and ensuring that the lights are on the flag poles. Brian McCarthy, the Town's new flag steward, is in the process of procuring lights for all the flags permanently flying in Town. We voted to pay for the lights on the two poles at the Veterans Memorial. Mary made the motion. Nola second. Unanimous vote.

Liz gave a wonderful history of the Memorial, which included some of her forebears. We asked that she write this down so we can have it as part of the history of the Memorial. Catherine thought that this was a good opportunity to promote the pavers that encircle the memorial.

President's Project for 2020 - Liz would like to be able to offer a service to new residents or any resident who wants to research his/her home; that is: provide access to deeds and history of the house. We discussed many ways to do this, including offering that the WHS do the research for a donation. We will do more about this at the next meeting. Liz wanted the board to be aware of her intentions.

Bandstand Supper - Tabled until next meeting when Nancy will be able to speak to it.

North Wilmot Church - Ann Davis of the North Wilmot Union Meeting House Society came to speak to us about the repairs needed on the North Wilmot Church. They are having an assessment done with funding from the NH Preservation Alliance, and when finished, they are hoping to count on the Wilmot Historical Society to support them financially and any other way we can. Ann gave us a copy of the report she is sending to the town to be included in the 2019 Town Report.

Wilmot Town Hall Rehabilitation - Catherine asked for some details from the last public presentation on January 12. The options were explained to the board, and Mary asked if the board would officially take a vote to support the effort not only in promoting the rehabilitation but also in soliciting funds. Nola explained how the Kearsarge Band raised funds recently with what is called a Free Will donation. Some large jars with identification bands are set out at events, and attendees of the events are asked to give donations. Envelopes are also available for them to take away and send in a donation. Judy made a motion to adopt this strategy and Nola seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. We also thought it was a good idea to put a link on our website to the town hall page on the town web site.

New London Historical/Cultural activities - Catherine Stearns had two books that were put together by Catherine O'Brian. Essentially an historical object was photographed and then a poet was asked to write a poem about the object. The WHS was asked if they would like to participate in this type of cultural activity. At this time, we do not seem to have the resources to do this. Will continue discussion at next meeting.

Pat Trader request for info on Railroad in Wilmot - Pat is looking for early photos of houses that were near the railroad as it went through East Wilmot. No one was able to recall seeing anything like this in our

collection. Catherine and/or Liz will look in the history room to see what might be there. Mary said she would write to Andrew Cushing to see if his dad might have some photos.

Interviews - It was noted by Catherine how much Kenny Clarke remembers about his youth growing up in Wilmot Center. Liz thought it would be a good idea to add Kenny to our list of people to be interviewed.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Fanelli, secretary

Next meeting will be at 1 p.m. on February 21 at the Town Offices.

ACTION ITEMS

- Pursue other options for website design - Mary
- Each committee is to appoint a leader before our next meeting on February 21
- Liz to work on annual report for the Town.
- Liz to write down the history of the Veterans Memorial as she recalled it at the meeting.