

**Wilmot Historical Society**  
**Minutes of August 26, 2020**  
**Meeting took place at the Town Green**

In attendance: Nola Aldrich, Liz Kirby, Mary Fanelli, Judy Hauck, Lindy Heim, Fred Ogmundson, Marc Davis, Julie Morse, and Catherine Stearns. Absent: Nancy Bates  
Guests: Janet Howe and Al Price

**Meeting was called to order** at 1:06 by President Liz Kirby

**Minutes** of meeting - February 21,2020 – approved as distributed.

**Treasurers Report** - as of August 26 – accepted as presented below.

Mascoma	\$5,000 checking
Ledyard	\$3,442.39 checking
	\$38,204.77 money market

**Total**                **\$46,647.16**

August expenses – checks written but not cashed yet:

Light for flags at memorial \$441.44

Theresa Chamberland for Walter’s video \$2500

Veterans Memorial Fund - \$1970.28 balance (\$441.44 was deducted from previous balance for flag lighting)

**Old business**

- **Cancellations and Postponements:** 2nd Fire Dept breakfast cancelled (WHS promo table); Veterans Memorial Celebration postponed until May 2021; Harrison Hunt interview postponed until safer times; Supper at the bandstand this summer cancelled.
- **Town hall rehabilitation. Our commitment:** In October of 2017 the WHS presented a resolution to the Select Board pledging support for the preservation of the Town Hall. Jeff Gill, who is head of the Facilities committee and coordinating the rehab of the building, was looking for a figure of about 60K to put into his application for an LCHIP grant. Mary told him that the WHS would make an effort to raise this money if needed. She explained that it is a goal, not a definite commitment.
- **Projector:** Judy Hauck bought a projector, but it did not work well, so she did not ask to be reimbursed for it. Liz asked that she do more research for a better piece of equipment and bring back three quotes to the board for their next meeting
- **Committee chairs:** Given the current COVID situation, Liz thought it best to put this off until such time as the committees can meet and decide on chairs for each one. Mary noted that Nancy Bates will not be able to take part in our activities as she is currently working in Portsmouth and would only be available on the weekends. Mary has retained the duties of treasurer and would like to find someone to either take over her secretarial duties or the treasurer duties.

- **Walter's negatives:** Marc said he has not approached Walter since the COVID restrictions have been in place. He will wait until he feels comfortable visiting Walter in his home.

## **Interim business**

**Acquisitions:** Town reports were given to the WHS by Beryl Sanborn and her mom. Al and Catherine have not been able to access the history room because of the COVID restrictions in place in the town office building. They have asked Marc Beerman to help out with the photography set up when they are able to get back into the room and continue their project of photographing and labeling all the items in the room.

**Audio Transcriptions:** Lindy mentioned that the audio transcriptions that Kim White does for us have been finished early this year. Kim has been working her way through the many audio interviews that Lindy had transferred from tape to CD. Mary paid Kim the \$600 agreed-upon annual fee. When completed, the transcripts are uploaded to the Memories of Wilmot page on the website.

**Flag lights at VM and TO and ball field:** Brian McCarthy is the town's new flag steward. He bought lights for all the community flag poles in town except the Town Hall. WHS agreed to pay for the ones at the Veterans Memorial. A check for \$441.44 was taken from the Veterans Memorial Fund monies.

**Historical tours:** Lindy has been spearheading an update of the 2007 bicentennial tour of Wilmot. Liz, Catherine, Judy, and Mary are each taking a section to update both the maps and the site descriptions. The project is almost finished. The goal is to put the information on the website so anyone can download it and take the tour.

**Website:** Mary has contracted with Paul Carnevale, Jr. to migrate our web site to WordPress. This application will be much easier to manage than the current Drupal that we now use. Mary will check with Paul to see where he is with this project. The project should be around \$500.

## **New Business**

**Articles of interest:** Mildred Howard's niece sent us a transcript of her aunt's memories during the Spring flood of 1936. We will scan the document and put it on the website with some background information. Also, Liz mentioned that there is an article in the August Paris Review about Kendel Currier's long working relationship with Donald Hall. Mary will send it to everyone and put it on the website.

**Boston Post Cane:** Our Boston Post Cane holder Ann Davenport died on April 8<sup>th</sup>. The policy states that we wait six months before choosing another person for this honor. Mary was asked to put a notice in the paper asking any resident over the age of 85 to contact the Historical Society with their date of birth info. The cane is given to the oldest person residing in Wilmot. May Jones is 90. Walter Walker will be turning 90 in October.

**Annual meeting:** Liz read state guidelines she downloaded from the website concerning gathering for meetings during the COVID pandemic. None of it addressed whether or not we are required to have our annual meeting. Mary proposed that we postpone the annual meeting until it is safe to gather. Liz asked that Mary send out a notice to the membership alerting them to the fact that we will not have the annual meeting this fall.

Bristol Cottage –Martha Bristol’s home is currently on the market at 36 Village Road and her neighbor Brian McCarthy would like to buy it as the land was once a part of his property as was the house. He would like the Historical Society to be his tenants. However, after much discussion about whether the Society was ready to make such a move, a motion was made by Mary and seconded by Julie that we not consider this property at the moment. In discussion it was felt that we do not currently have the means to raise money for rent each month nor do we have the person power to effect this kind of a big move at the moment. The motion passed unanimously. At some point in the future the Town may ask for the space that we now occupy and we may be in a better situation to find a new home. The general feeling was that right now is not the time.

In a related discussion, Janet Howe enlightened the group about the \$20,000 that was raised in the 90s when the then current board was hoping to find a new home for the collection. Their plans were not realized and the money has been set aside for such time as the Society is ready to take on the move.

**Other business:** Lindy announced that the Curiosity Shop will have a presence at the September 19 Farmers Market from 9 - noon. She has plenty of items she has collected to sell. If anyone is interested in helping that day, please contact Lindy.

Adjourned 3 p.m.

Next Meeting will take place at 1 p.m. Wednesday, September 23

### **Action Items**

Judy Hauck – get quotes for a new projector

Mary – send out notice that annual meeting is postponed

Check with Paul Carnevale on status of website

Scan Mildred Howard’s diary of 1936

Send out notice for Boston Post Cane in mid-September

Contact Nancy re her status on the board.