

Wilmot Historical Society
September 23, 2020
Minutes

Liz Kirby opened the meeting at 1:10 p.m. The meeting was held outside on the town green to maintain social distancing. Also present were Nola Aldrich, Marc Davis, Mary Fanelli, Lindy Heim, Judy Hauck, and Catherine Stearns. Absent: Nancy Bates, Julie Morse, and Fred Ogmundson.

Minutes: The minutes of August 26 were accepted as distributed by email. Marc/Judy

Treasurer's report:

Checking: \$500.95
MM: \$38,206.59 (\$1.62 int.)
Mascoma: \$5,000
Total: 43,707.54
Membership 102

Total income this year from all sources (dues, donations, grants, CS, books) is \$7,122.20.

Treasurer's report was accepted as presented. Marc/Nola

OLD BUSINESS

Curiosity Shop: Lindy gave her report on the Curiosity Shop (see attached). She posted a *thank you* on the W.O.W. Facebook page to all those who helped with the one-time event at the September 19 Wilmot Farmers Market. The market netted \$1068.25! The fee for the day was \$15. Liz Kirby handed out membership forms at the market. A new membership has already come in.

Video Equipment: Judy Hauck selected a projector that should be adequate for our needs. The cost is \$117. A motion was made by Mary to buy the projector, seconded by Nola. Discussion included types of microphones to be used. Judy has one wired and one wireless. Liz bought two wireless. These will be tried out during and trial interview for the Charles Thompson and Elizabeth Kirby interview that will take place in Charles' back yard across from the Thompson family home on Cross Hill Road.

Acquisitions: Catherine Stearns reported that Nancy Langley has given the WHS three framed photos from her mother's collection. Loretta Rayno gave us some script books from old theater productions that were held in the old WCA building as fundraisers. The posters for those plays currently hang in the new WCA building. We were also given Sunday school books and hymn books from the North Wilmot Church. There were some reminiscences about the Nimble Thimble Club that was a fundraising group for the North Wilmot Church. Notably Octavia Stearns and Thelma Minard were a part of that group.

Historical Tours: Lindy reported that all four of the tours (North Wilmot, Wilmot Center, Wilmot Flat, and Kearsarge Mountain areas) have been completed. Nola Aldrich, Mr. and Mrs. Lance, and Julie Morse agreed to try out the directions using the newly annotated maps and report back their suggestions for changes/corrections if any. So far Nola has been the only one to complete three of the four tours and submit suggestions.

Boston Post Cane: Mary submitted a press release to the Andover Beacon and will also send one to the InterTown Record to alert the Town residents of our search for the oldest living resident of Wilmot.

Ann Davenport, the previous Cane holder, passed away last spring. Mary will also include in a MailChimp notice that she will send out in October. May Jones name was mentioned. Mary will contact her to see if she knows of anyone older than she is who might be a candidate.

Annual Meeting: Because of COVID 19 the WHS annual meeting is being postponed until the State lifts restrictions on social gatherings. Mary will send out a notice to the membership via MailChimp letting them know.

New Website Platform: Mary said that the website has been switched to WordPress and she is happy with the “look.” However, she will need some time to reacquaint herself with this platform before switching from Drupal.

NEW BUSINESS

Town Shed: Al Price made a proposal to the WHS and to the BOS to convert the old highway department (town shed) into a Town building that would house both the Wilmot Historical Society and the archives for the Town of Wilmot. Liz Kirby is a member of the facilities committee for the town and she shared that after a visit to the site, she and other members of the committee did not think that Al’s plan was feasible, mostly because of the impracticability of the site as well as the cost to renovate.

Program by Steve Taylor: Catherine ran into Steve Taylor recently and asked if he is still giving his talk through the NH Humanities about sheep raising in NH. Steve said that they have dropped that particular presentation, but he would be glad to give the program for the WHS in the future.

Membership: Mary made a motion to change the membership year to start in January rather than November. She asked if we could move the membership year from starting November 1 to starting January 1. Although our fiscal year runs from November through October, the fact that we don’t send our newsletter out until January or so causes confusion when signing up members each year. Judy seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Reissue of Cap LeVarn’s books: Liz has been in touch with Cap’s niece and nephew who have no problem with the WHS reprinting Cap’s works. However, there is a grandson who lives in Florida, and Liz will contact him to see if he has any problem with the WHS reissuing both the *History of Wilmot* and two books of poetry that he wrote. The *History of Wilmot* is already in its 2nd printing.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mary has asked that she be relieved of the treasurer’s responsibilities in the next round of elections. She has been filling in for Nancy Bates, who has taken a position with the Town of Portsmouth, and is not able to attend board meetings. Nancy has not withdrawn from the board, but it was noted that we can take on another one or two members if we find it necessary according to the recently updated by-laws. Everyone was asked to be thinking about someone who might have financial background and who would be willing to take on this responsibility.

Winter Meetings: Since the weather is getting chilly, it was suggested that we have our winter meetings via Zoom.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 28th at 1 p.m. Judy will set up the meeting via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Fanelli, secretary

2020 Curiosity Shop

The Wilmot Historical Society would like to thank its loyal customers for coming out this past chilly Saturday, Sept. 19, 2020 to test their luck at finding just the right treasure at our Curiosity Shop! It was a banner sales day for the Shop at the Wilmot Farmers Market, the only Shop scheduled this season, and was a LOT OF FUN! Thank you all! See you in 2021!

All items for sale were donated by about 20 generous residents and/or members of the WHS BOD. Members of the acquisition committee made sure no collection worthy items were mistakenly offered for sale.

A 10 member team of enthusiastic volunteers donned masks, staged the Shop offerings and spritzed sanitizer on customers' hands entering the Shop. Volunteer musclemen (John Monto, Tom Schamberg, Nick Eaton and Ray Ilg and grandson Luke) set up and broke down tables, hauled boxes and installed fencing to direct the one-way traffic necessary during the global pandemic.

The net proceeds from this one event in 2020 was \$1068.25 with a few extra dollars coming in from post Shop purchases. A \$15 WFM fee was paid with no other expenses noted. All proceeds from the Shop are used to preserve the Society's collections. For the last couple of years the Society has spent a great deal of money on equipment and services associated with converting audiotape and videotape oral histories into a digital form that can be used for research and viewed in an enjoyable way. Each 20 minute video starts out as hours of boring, raw recordings which when edited and enhanced with pertinent still photos etc. become that much more enjoyable to view. Most of the video oral histories we have been conducting since 2010 have been transcribed as well, again for research purposes.

Our audiotape oral history collection dates back to the 1980s when the digital age was but a dream. Digital conversions (transcriptions and audio files) of these 30 or so audiotapes are likely to be posted or used in some way on the Memories of Wilmot tab of www.wilmothistoricalsociety.org along with finished video interviews.

