

Wilmot Historical Society

Minutes

January 27, 2021

1:10 PM – President Liz Kirby called the meeting to order via Zoom.

Present: Catherine Stearns, Judy Hauck, Fred Ogmundson, Lindy Heim, Mary Fanelli, Nola Aldrich, and Marc Davis.

Absent: Julie Morse

Minutes: December 16, 2020 via Zoom. Minutes were accepted as circulated.

Treasurer's report:

As of Jan 22:

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Ledyard Checking Account: | 1,042.45 |
| Ledyard MM Account: | 38,212.77 |
| Mascoma Checking Account: | 5,000.00 |
| Total assets: | 44,258.22 |

Members: 35 to date

Donations through membership to date: \$590 since Nov 1.

Expenses: Web hosting: \$160 and Postage for mailing \$113.74

Old business:

- **Newsletter – Mary**
Annual newsletter was sent out last week both to Wilmot residents via mass mailing and individually to those members with mailing addresses outside Wilmot.
- **Oral History – Lindy**
We have a two-pronged program: 1) transcription of audio tapes (Kim White is our transcriber) and 2) video tape interviews edited into 20 min segments (Theresa Chamberland is our video editor). Re videos: An older video of Annette and Henry Stevens is next after the recently published Walter Walker video. We are looking for photos for the Stevens video. Need to finish Thompson interviews as well.
- **Boston Post Cane – Liz & Catherine**
The Boston Post Cane was presented to Walter Walker. Photo and press release made the front page of the Community Section of the Concord Monitor and the front page of the InterTown Record. Liz informed us that Walter's wife Judy passed away last Saturday. Services will be held in the summer. Lindy mentioned that the Walter Walker BPC award got 1400 hits on the W.O.W. Facebook page with some very nice comments. Lindy will let Walter's daughter Holly know.
- **Boston Post Cane policy/guideline revision - Liz**
We should look at the BPC policy to address the situation when the oldest person in town does not want the Cane. Liz also suggested that a limit of two weeks be put in the guidelines to make the process more efficient.
- **Search for Treasurer – Potential Candidates – Mary**
Mary suggested that the best way to find a new treasurer for the board would be to solicit new board members since the treasurer must be on the board. Mary will talk to Sue Ware. Judy will contact Liz Fielding and Marc will speak to Betsy Forsham.
- **Reinstate the Action Item List – Lindy**
Lindy suggested that we reinstate the action item list that she used to do as VP? Catherine agreed to go through the minutes and make a list to send out.

- **Reissue Cap LeVarn's books - Judy**
After many attempts to contact the print shop at the State Prison, Judy contacted another vendor. The cost is \$101 to scan into Microsoft Word and \$40.85 to scan to a pdf 40.85. It would then be about \$600 to make 50 softcover books. Judy will send the info to the board members to look at and have input.
- **Town Report – Liz/Mary**
The report was submitted on time after having to cut some of the text down to fulfill the requirement of 500 words. Liz commented that she was surprised how much we had done last year in spite of COVID. Lindy provided photos to go with the report.
- **Letter from Nancy Bates – Liz**
Nancy is very sad about not being able to fulfill her role as treasurer, but her new position in Portsmouth is standing in the way. She offered her resignation so that we can appoint another treasurer and hopes to be able to join us again at some point in the future.
- **Mascoma Bank Donation – Keep on radar no action.**
- **Plan for Soldiers Monument “celebration” on Sat. May 29, 2021 – Liz**
Other non-profits are also planning for that weekend. Garden Club plant sale is on Sat a.m. Black Fly on Monday. Sunday and Monday are not open for American Legion. Mary suggested Kearsarge Band to play, but Nola said that restrictions for COVID might make this not a good idea. If band members are vaccinated, it might be possible. A broadcasted program might be possible. Liz suggested that we talk about the plans at the next meeting and asked people to bring ideas. She also suggested the need for a power-source generator.

NEW BUSINESS

Appeal/Info letters from North Wilmot Union Meeting House Society

Mary made a motion to adopt the option of donating \$1250 to cover the cost of rehabbing the 12X12 window above the front door including sidelights. Fred seconded the motion. During the discussion Lindy asked about the amount that is set aside for our own future WHS home, and was assured that there is plenty. Mary will research the exact amount. The board feels that we do have the money and we should be supporting this type of historical project. Lindy was ok with the expense. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

- **Report from acquisitions committee – Catherine**
Lindy reported that she has items from the Curiosity Shop and the Education collection stored in her home. In 2016 she asked others to catalog what they are holding for the WHS, and that she is still waiting for a list from Marc. Liz reported on Janet Howe's concerns about the items in her barn that belong to WHS. She is worried that if something happened to her, her family would have no way of knowing this. Lindy suggested that Acquisitions catalog and photograph these items and other items that are stored in membership homes and elsewhere. Lindy has compiled some of the off- site item lists and may be able to locate them on her computer. Marc and Catherine will list the items which are currently in storage at their homes. Once the lists are collected, Acquisitions will catalog and photograph these items. However, Catherine reported that she and Al will not be finishing the indoor cataloging of the items in the History Room until after they have both have received their Covid vaccinations.
- **“Today's events are tomorrow's history” – Marc**
Marc spoke to the fact that we should not ignore the fact that current events will be tomorrow's history. He encouraged us to find a way to record current events. Mary suggested that we start scrapbooking items from the paper or other sources and recommended Julie Morse as someone who might enjoy doing this for us. Liz will ask her.

- **In memory – Acknowledge members’ passing** - Obits scrapbook – *Liz*
This topic was included in the scrapbook idea as a way of preserving the information. Scanning the written copy is a good way of providing information through the internet.
Within last two years, at least seven: Judy Rayno 4/1/19; Esther Grace 12/28/19; Barbara Sanborn 5/17/20; Frank Baker 12/18/20; Peter Guest 1/14/21; Dudley Mosley 1/14/21; Judy Walker 1/23/21.
- Liz reminded all board members to be sure to pay their 2021 dues.

Other Business: There being no other business we adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Next meeting Wednesday, February 17, 2021

WHS CURRENT ACTION ITEM LIST

- **Lindy** will let Walter’s daughter Holly know how popular Walter’s BPC presentation was on the W.O.W. Facebook page.
- **We** need to review the Boston Post Cane policy to address how, in the future, we will handle it when the oldest person in town does not want the Cane. We also decided to update the policy with a two-week limit for the candidate.
- **Mary** will talk with Sue Ware about joining the WHS board.
- **Judy** will talk with Liz Fielding about joining the WHS board.
- **Marc** will talk with Betsy Forsham about joining the board.
- **Catherine** will create an action item list from the minutes of this meeting and future meetings as one of the duties of the Vice President.
- **Judy** will send the information regarding the republishing of Cap LeVarn’s book to the rest of the board for review.
- **We** will talk about planning for the Veterans Monument celebration at our next meeting. Please bring ideas.
- **Mary** will research and report the exact amount of the WHS funds which are earmarked for our future WHS home.
- **The Acquisitions Committee** will contact Janet to arrange proceeding with the listing and photographing of the WHS items that are stored in her barn and will report on the progress regarding that and the rest of the offsite items at our next WHS board meeting.
- **Liz** will discuss with Julie the possibility of scrapbooking appropriate items for the future.
- **We** agreed that WHS will collect the obituaries of people associated with Wilmot and WHS, and create a scrapbook (and scan them) for future historical reference.
- **All** remember to pay WHS 2021 dues.