

WHS Annual Meeting

October 28, 2018

Wilmot Town Hall

Board members present: Liz Kirby, Judy Hauck, Julie Morse, Catherine Stearns, Nola Aldrich, Sue Finney, Mary Fanelli, Marc Davis, Lindy Heim, Fred Ogmundson, Nancy Bates

CALL TO ORDER

After all present enjoyed eating and socializing, Liz called the meeting to order at 1:42 PM

She introduced the Board members and thanked Janet Howe for organizing the treats and Sue Finney (and her daughter) for their work on the new WHS logo. She also thanked to Charlie Thompson and Jeff Gill for their help on the Building Committee and Bonnie Betters-Reed for her help in helping the Board to elucidate its mission and organize its structure.

Committee Reports

Acquisitions/Collections - Marc Davis reported that he is working on finding the best locations for the larger pieces in our collection that will not fit in the History Room. He suggested that we might wish to collaborate with other towns' historical societies.

Oral History Production – Lindy Heim (See attached.)

Public Relations – Mary Fanelli (See attached.)

Fund Raising – Mary Fanelli, Judy Hauck, Sue Finney (See attached.)

Curiosity Shop – Lindy Heim (See attached.)

Programs – Mary Fanelli (See attached.)

Technology – Mary Fanelli (See attached.)

Soldiers Monument - Liz Kirby - This year a large dying maple tree was removed from the Monument Place side of the green. This will give the smaller maple tree, planted a few years ago, room to grow. The Wilmot Garden Club and Mary Fanelli are caring for the plantings around the monument.

Treasurers Report – Mary Fanelli (See attached.)

Ad Hoc Committee

Building/Finance – Nancy Bates presented information on the potential purchase of a building to house the Historical Society and its collections. In addition to what we have already learned, the Building Committee will contact other historical societies to help further determine the priorities and practicalities of owning a building in preparation for a fund-raising campaign to begin next spring.

Board and Officer Elections

After the slate of candidates for board of directors was offered, nominations from the floor were encouraged but none was offered. It was moved and seconded that the slate be accepted as presented. On completion of voting, Fred Ogmundsen and Julie Morse were re-elected, each for a three-year term.

WHS Officers Elected:

President- Liz Kirby

Vice President – Lindy Heim

Secretary – Judy Hauck

Treasurer – Mary Fanelli

Amendments to By-Laws

Changes to the by-laws were read and explained. After a short discussion and a vote, changes to the by-laws were approved as presented. The by-laws will be in effect at the end of this meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:25 PM and was followed by a fascinating presentation of pictures and stories about Wilmot cemeteries, buildings, and other local sites.

Next meeting will be held on Friday, Nov 16, at 1:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Hauck, Secretary

ADDENDUM - REPORTS

WHS Oral History Committee 2018 Annual Report

The WHS Oral History Committee is presently comprised of Liz Kirby, Judy Hauck, Nancy Bates, Fred Ogmundson, Chris Jenssen and myself. We would love others to join the fun of interviewing, operating the camcorder or helping with the staging and/or arranging recordings.

Going forward, the committee agreed to record the oral histories of Harrison Hunt, Barbara Sanborn, May Jones and Liz Kirby and Chuck Thompson and Tootie Fleury in the near future, in that order, and in pairs when appropriate. Initial video recordings have been made of the first three candidates with additional recordings and pertinent still pictures to be added later. Thanks to Judy Hauck's efforts, the WHS is now in possession of a good camcorder and mic plus she has offered her expertise in recording and downloading raw footage.

As for unedited recordings already on hand, the WHS board has given its approval to produce 3 short professional and very watchable videos of important Wilmot residents using footage from interviews conducted in 2010 and 2011. We all look forward to hearing and seeing Clara Langley, Esther Grace and Thelma Menard again. This project is in progress and close to completion thanks to services our professional videographer in Mass., Theresa Chamberland is performing for us. Funding is provided by monies granted to the society for this specific purpose and also by funds raised by the Curiosity Shop, WHS's fundraising arm. As funds become available, more short videos will be produced from already recorded material.

Kim White of New London has been hired by the WHS to continue her transcription work on our other oral history collection, our old audio tape collection. We have about 30 cassette recordings of individuals and special programs produced in the old days before digital devices were available. She has been able to transcribe 7 so far and has agreed to continue this laborious task on into the future. We hope to post these written transcriptions on our website and have them available for folks wanting to do research.

When completed, all documents and videos will be posted on the Attic and Memories of Wilmot pages of the WHS website, at www.wilmothstoricalsociety.org for your enjoyment. Already you can find video histories of Freedom Acres and Loretta Rayno's oral history posted there, a recording of the 2016 One Room Schoolhouse program the society hosted, a document about Wilmot Center written by Edith Marion Goodhue Campbell in 1968 and many other interesting links and resources.

Public Relations – Mary Fanelli

Press Releases were sent out for each program along with ads to promote them. Lindy sends out the releases to her list of contacts, and I send the ads to the Shopper, InterTown Record, and the Andover Beacon. The recently designed T-shirts and the new logo will contribute greatly to positive PR for the Society making us more visible in the community.

Fund Raising – Mary Fanelli, Sue Finney, Judy Hauck

We have consistently received grants of \$1,000 or more from the Barnard Foundation to support the ongoing video interviews that we have been filming for posterity!!!

Also, in addition to funds coming in from the, books, DVDs, and T-shirts, members of the board of directors, under the able guidance of Nancy Bates, got together in the WCA kitchen and turned out a fabulous meal of bratwurst in beer with all homemade salads and desserts for the August bandstand supper. We were quite the team and managed to gross \$724 for our efforts.

The Wilmot Historical Society added creating and selling t-shirts to their fund-raising efforts this summer. Judy Hauck and Catherine Stearns invested time and creativity in designing a map of Wilmot to be placed on the back of the t-shirt depicting interesting historical sites in the town. Sue Finney completed a logo for the front with a graphic of the town offices, which was originally an old school house in Wilmot Flat. The blue t-shirts are being sold for fifteen dollars each.

Curiosity Shop – Lindy Heim

The Wilmot Historical Society's Curiosity Shop, fundraising arm of the society, raised nearly \$2,000 by hosting three events on the town green this Summer.

17 different people donated a TON of treasure so that Shop volunteers had lovely things to display and sell during the Wilmot Farmers' Market hours of operation, 9 am to noon, on those three Saturdays.

At the end of the season, the Shop was able to net another \$86 by consigning 5 boxes of leftover china and pottery items, 4 pieces of framed art, and one rocking chair at Go Lightly in New London. Additionally, a box of Shop leftovers was collected for the Andover E. & M School for their holiday gift project (Margaret Monto gave it to Tootie Fleury) and a small FREE pile was left out on the town green. We also raised \$100, minus a commission, for a restrike of an 1898 engraving made by a famous artist. Smith Auction House will send us a check.

As usual, people have been very generous with their donations and our volunteer gang was very generous with their time! It was a herculean project getting the Shop put to bed. Thank you all who came out to help with that. Remind me to think twice before scheduling a Curiosity Shop on Town-wide Yard Sale Day or when the library schedules their progressive dinner..... Communication with the organizers of both events has already begun.

New this year was the commissioning of a limited edition of a DVD recording of Donald Hall reading his poetry. The fundraiser includes a wonderful picture of the poet laureate, his obituary by Mike Pride, a personal quote and photo of Eagle Pond Farm. The DVD sells for \$20 from the WHS, Wilmot Public Library and Morgan Hill Bookstore in New London.

From the perspective of those who worked the Shop, skipping covering the tables with linens saved time and energy without compromising the quality of our table displays. And adding a display area indoors worked out nicely, allowing folks to visit the History Room and giving our

most fragile merchandise a safe place out of harm's way. Raising the bar on the quality of our merchandise helped as well. We may skip choosing Town-wide Yard Sale Day to host one of our few Summer shops in 2019 as a different kind of shopper is drawn to that kind of bargain shopping day than our usual more discriminating clientele. We hope to host 4 Curiosity Shops next summer.

Programs – Mary Fanelli

In February, Pam Weeks, curator at the New England Quilt Museum, gave a very instructive and interesting program on quilts.

Our May program featured preserving and repurposing historic buildings. The speaker, Andrew Cushing, field service representative for the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance, was very knowledgeable and practical about the benefits and the pitfalls of historic restoration.

In September, we collaborated with the North Wilmot Church to sponsor a program on Colonial Meetinghouses and their impact on American Society. Paul Wainwright, from the NH Humanities, gave the presentation at the North Wilmot Church.

All programs were well-attended.

Technology – Mary Fanelli

We bought a new scanner printer that will scan large format photos and materials. Our computer was serviced a few weeks ago, and it seems to be holding up well. Like most technology, it will probably have to be update in a year or so in order to keep up with the changes in operating systems.

I would like to upgrade the content management system for the Historical Society website. Paul Carnevale, Jr., a seasoned webmaster, is working with me to find a suitable software that is easy to manage.

Treasurers Report – Mary Fanelli

Total Monetary Assets \$48,348.80

\$38,858.74 - Bar Harbor checking (includes \$21,153.48 – Building Fund and \$2,411.72 Veterans Memorial Fund)

\$350 – Mascoma checking account

\$10,140 – Bar Harbor CD