

Wilmot Historical Society

March 17, 2022

Wilmot Town Offices

Convened 5:05 p.m.

Board Present: Liz Kirby, Catherine Stearns, Judy Hauck, Bill Chaisson, Heather Mather, Fred Ogmundsen, Mary Fanelli

Public Present: Jodi Hedderig, Mary Gutsell, Carolyn Rayno, Bruce Sanborn

Fred began the meeting with a historical diary entry by Josie Goodhue (wife of Fred Goodhue) on the ill health of a bull and of her husband. Her husband recovered better than the bull.

The minutes were accepted with two amendments from Liz. Motion made by Mary, seconded by Judy. All were in favor.

Treasurer's Report

Mary reported the balances from the WHS bank accounts, which totaled \$46,753.55, and the encumbrances, which totaled \$38,545. This left the WHS with \$8,208 that it is free to spend. The society received \$5,250 in grants last year, which has been or will be spent on publishing the LeVarn book, converting VHS tapes to digital media. and buying pavers for the Soldiers' Memorial.

The WHS has 97 members and has received \$1,710 in donations above and beyond the recent membership renewals.

Judy made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Heather. All were in favor.

Town Meeting

Article 04 on the 2022 warrant, to fund a project to raise and restore the town hall, passed 64-1. Mary, who is on the Facilities Committee, explained that construction will not begin until summer 2023 because prep work done this year will not leave enough time to complete the project. The library's heating system is in the annex, which will also be raised, so the project must be finished before cold weather sets in.

Acquisitions

Catherine reported that Marc Davis has received a lot of slides from Walter Walker (we will be digitizing them). She also has VHS tapes from Gail Matthews' television interviews with local people. These too will be digitized, although Mary Gutsell said the quality is no longer stellar. It was noted that the Wilmot Public Library has VHS copies of many of these shows.

Storage Space

The unit was cleaned up by Catherine and Judy with a lot of help from Bruce Sanborn. They found a jawbone with a note shoved into a declivity that explained the bone had been found by the side of the road near Chase Pond. There was speculation that it could have been the jaw of Billy Buskin, whose grave is nearby and has been subject to erosion over the years. The bone will be put in a shadow box with an interpretive note.

LeVarn Book

Mary reported that Howard Hoke of Echo Communications offered to print the new edition, which includes an index, but he then lost track of the job. He has, however, gotten back on track and has promised to send an estimate

soon. It is possible that it will have to be printed as a paperback. If so, Bill suggested that an appropriate photo be added to the cover.

Videos/Audio

An interview with Julie and John Morse is planned. Julie has been asked and will speak with John about it.

Theresa is editing several videos and has requested photos to integrate into them.

Mary has made a transcript of an interview with Charles (Thompson) that is mostly about volunteer fire company.

Website

It has been difficult to get hold of Paul Carnevale, the web designer. We would like him to make a new template for the video and audio transcription pages at the site.

May 8 Program

It will be at the town hall. Refreshments will be served starting at 1 p.m. Catherine is in charge of asking Janet (Howe) about providing them. At 1:30 p.m. the speaker, Lourdes Aviles, will be introduced. She is speaking about the Hurricane of 1938. She is a meteorology professor at Plymouth State.

New Business

Jodi Hedderig is the new administrator at the Wilmot Community Association. She grew up in Contoocook, spent 25 years in New Mexico and moved to Wilmot two years ago. In Albuquerque she ran the "open space program," which consisted of a series of conservation projects. Since returning to the Northeast, she has been exploring Wilmot's trails and the historical remnants in the town, and relearning the local environment.

She will inaugurate "Wander Wilmot" this year, a series of interpretive walks around town. The first one is in May, a birdwatching walk with Bill at Langenau Forest. In June the cemetery trustees will lead a tour of the burial grounds in town. She asked the WHS to come up with a tour for July. She intends to continue the walks monthly into October. Bill offered to lead a geology walk and will ask the Davenports for permission to go up to the old garnet mine.

Mary Gutsell presented the WHS with stamps and stickers bearing the society's seal/logo. She also had tote bags and T-shirts printed.

Leah Tully, a nurse who has been taking care of COVID patients at Dartmouth-Hitchcock, is willing to do a presentation about this historic pandemic.

The WHS will provide the concessions for the Fern Family Band show on August 20. The concession for Nick's Other Band went to the Friends of the Wilmot Public Library because they made a donation to the Bandstand Committee that made the NOB concert possible.

The Wilmot Farmers Market begins on Saturday, June 25. Liz would like to have the Historical Room in the town offices open each Saturday during the market. She asked for docents to sign up for dates and training has been promised.

The motion to adjourn was made by Mary, seconded by Judy. All were in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.