

Wilmot Historical Society
Board Minutes
February 9, 2023

Liz Kirby, chair, opened the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

Present were board members Marc Davis, Mary Fanelli, Judy Hauck, Carolyn Rayno, Bruce Sanborn, and Catherine Stearns. David Janis was also in attendance.

Minutes

Liz read a draft of the January Minutes. The December minutes were read at the last meeting. Both minutes were accepted.

Treasurer's report

The new treasurer, Heather Mather, was not present tonight, so there was no report. The previous treasurer, Mary Fanelli, reported that there was very little activity during January. Feb 7, Liz, Mary and Heather went to Ledyard bank to put Heather on the account. Previous board member Nancy Bates was removed.

Oral Histories

Kim White has finished the oral histories transcribed from cassette tapes. Catherine, Liz, and Carolyn offered to copy edit them to make sure the names of people and places are correct.

Acquisitions

Myrna Colby Tourtant emailed the WHS to offer us a violin that was made by Herbert S. Clay in 1899. Mr. Clay lived on Grafton Road where Clayton Nowell recently lived. The violin was owned by Myrna's father Myron "Mike" Colby. Myrna would like to donate it for us to have in our collection. Catherine will follow up on this.

Genealogy Committee

We now have in our possession the original genealogy papers that were copied by Walter Walker and put into a binder several years ago. Walter's daughter Holly is pleased the WHS is taking the materials that Walter has stored over the years. Bruce has scanned many of them and put them on the history room computer as well as on a thumb drive and shared with others. The originals will be put in archival folders and stored in archival boxes. He suggested that we do a genealogy book of original family histories. Carolyn had a copy of a proposal from the 1916 Town meeting that authorized the start of a town history committee.

There was a long discussion about whether to approach the town to request that the WHS take over the duties of the inactive town history committee. Walter Walker, who is head of the committee, is in a facility and will not be returning to his home. His daughter Holly has asked the WHS to come in and take all the historical documents that are currently in the house. Most of these belong to the town history committee, so it was suggested that we petition the town to allow WHS to take care of the town's historical documents and turn anything over to the town clerk that should be kept in her archives.

Printer Scanner

After a discussion about what type of printer is actually needed, it was decided that, since the large format scanner we have can scan ledger-size documents, we only need a standard printer that will scan and print letter-size and legal-size documents. The few times we need to print a ledger size document, the file can be scanned on the large format machine and sent out to be printed. Judy will research a reliable laser printer that will suit our immediate needs. At the moment, the large format inkjet printer scanner is not reliable for printing.

PO Window display

The Genealogy Committee was in charge of setting up the post office window for February. Catherine did a great job of hanging the new banner and providing photos and information about doing genealogical research. It looks great! As a background she used our new banner and printed many old photos from the collection. She also provided information gathered by the genealogy committee as handouts available at the edge of the display.

Building Committee

There was a very long discussion centered around the needs of the historical society and the acquisition of the Stearns Road Schoolhouse now owned by Don Lucas. Judy presented a layout she did based on the standard dimensions of a schoolhouse. The idea at the time was to find a company that would provide a modular building of those dimensions and have it erected and finished on site. In discussing the acquisition of the Stearns Road schoolhouse for the purpose of providing a new home for the WHS, it was noted that the dimensions of this particular building were a lot smaller than normal. Some thought it would be fine initially and that an addition could be made to it once in place. Some of the board members felt we should acquire it and move it just to preserve it, but not necessarily use it as our new home. Mary was against this since she feels the most immediate need of funds and person power is to find the society a new place to live. This led to the further discussion of a site for any of these ideas.

Langley Park was suggested since it is owned by the town and there was once a building on that site next to the brook. The old Brady property (14 N. Wilmot Rd.), that is now vacant, was suggested as well. Problems about acquiring 14 N. Wilmot Road is that the select board has repeatedly said it wants to have a plan for that land before doing anything with it. Mary advised the board that they probably would be successful in having the town agree to let their put an historical society building on that land only if they come up with a complete plan for the whole property. One part of that plan has to include some kind of a parking area that would serve the whole complex. The property is quite deep but not wide (117').

Grants

Bruce brought up the fact that if we did get the Stearns schoolhouse, we might be able to get an LHIP grant to restore it. (See below for update on Mascoma grant.)

Senior Lunch

February 16, WHS will do a presentation on genealogy at the Kearsarge Community luncheon. Judy, Carolyn, Catherine will be there to support Liz in giving the presentation.

Bandstand supper

We have agreed to do the bandstand supper on August 12. The Fern Family Band will be the entertainment that evening. No menu has been set.

Map of History of Industry on Kimpton Brook

Judy announced that she has just about finished the map that will go with a history of industries on Kimpton Brook. When all is ready we can make hard copies and put digital copies up on our website. Thank you Judy.

LeVarn book

At the end of the meeting Mary announced that the LeVarn book is finally published. Bill Chaisson has ordered two for us to look at. They are being published through the publishing service at Amazon and cost \$8.14 each. We will order 25 for the history room and beyond that, they will be available at any time through amazon. Once we order the books and deduct any expenses incurred in producing it, this will complete the \$750 Mascoma Grant.

Meeting was adjourned at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Fanelli, secretary

Next meeting is March 9 at 5 pm in the town office
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