

Wilmot Historical Society
Minutes
March 9, 2023

Meeting was called to order at 5 p.m. by president Liz Kirby.

Present were board members Judy Hauck, Heather Mather, Mary Fanelli, Catherine Stearns, Bruce Sanborn, and Carolyn Rayno. Guests were Joy Donohue, Sara Timberlake, and David Janas.

Minutes

February 9 Minutes were accepted as circulated with one abstention.

Treasurer's Report

Mary has turned over all the files to the new treasurer, Heather Mather.

Heather gave a breakdown of income and expenses for the year. She has filed the annual NHCT-12 report with the state. Of the \$41,388.60 in cash assets, \$32,345.56 is encumbered (building fund (\$21,153), veteran's memorial (\$1,942.56), and town hall (\$10,000), and Mascoma Book grant (\$750), and we have \$9,043 to use for normal expenses.

Action Item List/ Old Business

- Violin made by Herbert Clay donated by Myrna Toutant, daughter of Mr. Colby, who may have played it at the square dances at Fortune's Barn in Bradford. (1940's and 50's). Herbert Clay lived on the Grafton Road farm that is currently owned by Clayton Nowell. The violin is not in playing condition at the moment. Bruce Sanborn will find someone to let us know what it would take financially to restore the instrument.
- Post Office window is continued from February through March. Catherine, of the genealogy committee did a great job of setting it up to promote genealogy study.
- Senior Lunch program, February 16, at the UCC church - Liz spoke on the subject of genealogy and the historical importance of it. She brought packets that the genealogy committee has put together to facilitate studying family history.
- Video interviews: The Morse video is done and up on the web. The last one of the series is of Tootie Fleury and her brother Duke Evans. Mary applied for another grant from the Barnard Foundation to complete this video.
- Cassette tape transcriptions – Kim has finished transcribing the cassette tapes into Word documents. Some have been edited and some have not. Liz and Catherine are going to look through the printed transcripts. Mary will get them a thumb drive with the Word docs to be edited.
- Printer/Scanner – Judy has purchased a printer/scanner for the history room. She has contributed \$200 toward the \$500 price of the machine.
- LeVarn book – is finished and Bill Chaisson ordered two hardcover copies as samples. Both Liz and Catherine noted that the cover of the book is warping and the text needs to be darker and/or larger. Joy Donohue, who repairs and restores books for both the New London Library and the Wilmot Library said that she thought the cover was too small for the number of pages in the book. Liz also brought up the fact that there is money available in the Town treasury from the Town History committee if we need it. So far, the Mascoma grant is covering the costs.

- Gail Matthews tapes – Liz and Catherine went through all the tapes that Gail donated and only a few of them are really documenting Wilmot History. They will try to find people who might be interested in having the tapes that we do not want.
- Building Committee – we had a very long discussion on the effort to provide WHS with a new home. Liz had some old documents that pointed out that this has been in the works for a very long time – at least since 2018. Mary has turned over all her files to Bruce, who has agreed to be on the building committee to bring him up to speed on the work that has already been done. There is also the problem of where to situate the building. 14 North Wilmot Road seems like the ideal place. However, a plan for the design of the whole property must be drawn up before approaching the select board. Judy has done a design for the space of a typical size school house.
- Report on the “History of Industry on Kimpton Brook” project – Judy did map showing where the industries are. She just needs the narrative to go with the map. Dave Janas reported that he has two dams that are breached next to his property, but they are not on Kimpton Brook.
- Mary made a motion to pursue the acquisition of a new home for the Wilmot Historical Society to house their collection. Judy seconded the motion and all were in favor. Liz has minutes of a special meeting of the membership held in April of 2018 that gave the board the authority to acquire a new space for our collection. A copy of those minutes will be attached to these minutes for reference.
- Everyone present was asked to write down any ideas they may have about what should be incorporated in the new WHS space and send them to Mary.

New Business

Spring Program – Everyone agreed that we do not have the time or resources to sponsor our usual annual May program.

Bandstand Supper August 12 – No decision was made as to the menu. Mary suggested that we do Denise’s mac and cheese again along with coleslaw. Mary offered to do hot dogs, but only if the grill was repaired. It was not hot enough to keep up with the demand last year.

Papers from Walter Walker – We have acquired a treasure trove of documents from Walter Walker. The challenge now is to sort them, catalog them, and find space for them in the history room. We now have the four-drawer file cabinet that has been in the library now for a number of years.

Other Business

Bruce is still working on the genealogy of the original taxpayers in the Town of Wilmot.

A thumb drive with family history sheets is missing from the History Room. Catherine asks that everyone sign out any item that they remove from the history room. There is a red covered notebook on the table to do so.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Fanelli, secretary

Next meeting will be Thursday, April 13 at 5 p.m. in the town office.