

**Wilmot Historical Society**  
**Minutes**  
**April 13, 2023**

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

Present were: Heather Mather, treasurer, Catherine Stearns, vice-president, Mary Fanelli, secretary, Judy Hauck, Nola Aldrich, Caroline Rayno, and Bruce Sanborn.

Absent: Julie Morse, Marc Davis, and Fred Ogmundson.

Guests: Betsy Forsham, Dave Janas, Karen Hanson.

**Minutes**

9 March 2023 minutes were accepted as distributed.

**Treasurer's Report**

Total cash assets are \$39,522.16. Report was accepted as read (see attached).

**Membership: 87 to date**

**OLD BUSINESS/ACTION ITEM LIST**

- P O Window – Feb & Mar – Great job Catherine, Thank you
- Video Interviews: -Morse done –on website; Evans in progress. Mary has put in for another grant to finish. Meanwhile, she asked if the board would encumber \$2600 to finish the Evans video in case the Barnard Grant does not come through.
- Printer/scanner purchased and set up. Need to get direct link from computer to scan. Bruce will ask Bill Chaisson to help with this.
- Map and history of Kimpton Brook. Judy finished with map. Just need photos from Betsy.
- LeVarn Book –Bill Chaisson will make the font darker but cannot make it larger. The plan is to order 50 to sell out of the history room or library, and it will be available on line through Amazon for \$15.00. Betsy Forsham has corrections that we can put in the back of the book as an insert.
- Matthews tapes & transcription edits. It was decided to take this off the agenda each month as it is *ongoing*.
- Original Tax Payers' genealogies – Bruce. *Ongoing*.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- **Acquisitions Committee**  
- Violin – Bruce called Terry Moore to ask about restoring the recently gifted violin made by Clay. No response yet.

- W. Walker papers sorting progress – Catherine putting endless time sorting into file folders.

- **Building Committee**

Stearns School – Bruce volunteered to speak with Don Lucas about the possibility of having the WHS acquire the school to restore it before it cannot be reclaimed. All in favor.

- **Genealogy Committee**

Dave Janas agreed to be on the Genealogy committee. Dave has been finding a lot of historical documents in the family home he now lives in on Woodland Lane.

- **Program Committee**

May program – it was decided that we would not put on our annual program this year. Mary suggested having Mary Lyn Ray come to talk about the new non-profit At Eagle Pond, Inc. Barbara Chalmers from Sunapee archives was suggested as a good potential speaker. She is a specialist in cemeteries and has written books on old Sunapee buildings.

## NEW BUSINESS

- **Ledyard has a special on 6-month CDs at 5%.** After some discussion about how much to put in to a CD it was decided that definitely the \$21,153 in the building fund should definitely be invested. Because we do not have an immediate need for the \$1,942.56 in the Veteran's Memorial Fund, that can be put into a separate CD. The \$10,000 encumbered for the Town Hall project, probably will not be used for a while, so that will be put in another CD. A decision can be made next fall whether to roll any of these over. Chances are pretty good that the rate return might be still high. Mary made the motion as stated. Nola seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Mary will contact Leo at Ledyard to set this up.

- **Bequest from Pat Decato Baker**

The executive committee of Liz, Catherine, Heather, and Mary met on April 1 when notification came from Bar Harbor Wealth Management that Pat had left 25% of her estate to the Wilmot Historical Society "to be held and used for a permanent building." (Minutes of this meeting are below.)

The executive committee had several questions they wanted answered from Bar Harbor so they could give a clear report of the details of the bequest. As treasurer, Heather took on the task of procuring answers to those questions. Attached also to these minutes is a synopsis of the details of the trust after Heather had talked to Bar Harbor.

One of the documents enclosed with the papers from the bank asked us to sign a release to be responsible for any debts that might come up after the trust was distributed. We are not required to sign these papers, but will have to wait until the estate is completely settled and all debts paid by the bank. Heather is going to find out what this timeframe might be. After some discussion, it was decided that we do not really have an immediate

use for the money, so Mary made a motion not to sign this paper and wait out the period of time required before the distribution can be made, rather than encumbering the WHS with the possibility of having to return any of the money in the future. Nola seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Request for donation to the Wilmot Farmers Market**

We did not have a Curiosity Shop (CS) at the market last year, so we did not donate in 2022. Mary made a motion to give them \$50 to help with their expenses since they were very gracious in past years giving us so much dedicated space for the CS. Nola seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Participation in Wilmot Farmers Market 2023**

The market season has been extended. It starts June 17 and ends September 30. The hours are 9 a.m. until noon. The History Room will be open during those same hours and for that same duration. Liz said we are going to need volunteers to staff the room. Please contact either Liz or Catherine with the weeks you are able to help out.

- **Request for donation from North Wilmot Union Meeting House**

After some discussion, the board voted not to send any funds to help with the restoration of the interior of the North Wilmot Church. Two years we gave \$1200 to restore the Palladian window in the church. The restoration of the interior seems to be a separate endeavor that is a couple of years down the road. Mary, as secretary, will write to Ann Davis to inform her that we will not contribute at this time.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Library Program Thurs. 4/27/23 at 7:00 PM. Local poet Laurie Zimmerman reads her poetry and reminisces about Donald Hall and Jane Kenyon.
- Library and Conservation Commission clean up Langley Park on Earth Day, 4/22/23 from 8:30 to 10:30 AM
- Right after this, invasives will be removed from behind the library from 10:30 – noon.
- Bandstand Supper August 12<sup>th</sup> 2023 – On radar
- Education – There are a number of lectures/webinars being presented by American Ancestors and NHHS – for more info, contact Liz.

Adjourn: 7:15 p.m.

**Next Meeting is Thursday, May 11, 2023 at 5 p.m. in the Wilmot Town Office.**

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Fanelli, Secretary

*Attached below are minutes from the executive meeting of April 1, 2023, Heather's bequest synopsis. Treasurer's full report is below.*

**WHS Treasurer's Report - May 2023 (Fiscal  
Year Month 7)**

<b>Income</b>	
Dues	\$ 425.00
Donations	\$ 3,541.00
Books	\$ 23.00
Interest	\$ 52.58
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$ 4,041.58</b>

<b>Expenses</b>	
Oral Histories	\$ 4,900.00
Dues/Fees	\$ 1,915.00
Print/Advertising	\$ 464.00
Equipment	\$ 200.00
Postage	\$ 190.19
Digitizing	\$ 45.00
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$ 7,714.19</b>

<b>Net Gain/Loss</b>	<b>\$ (3,672.61)</b>
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<b>Total Cash Assets</b>	\$ 40,488.48
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<b>Encumbrances</b>	
Restricted Veteran's Memorial	\$ 1,942.56
Restricted Building Fund	\$ 21,153.00
Restricted Town Hall Project	\$ 10,000.00
Restricted Mascoma Book Grant	\$ 750.00
*Removed at 5/11 Meeting Oral History Reserve	\$ 2,600.00
Liability Ins. Renewal	\$ 500.00

<b>Total Encumbered Cash:</b>	\$ 36,945.56
result of Removing Oral History Reserve <del>Total Unencumbered Cash:</del>	<del>\$ 3,542.92</del>
<b>Total Unencumbered Cash:</b>	\$ 6,142.92

<b>Bank Accounts</b>	
Operating Checking	\$ 2,204.56
Money Market	\$ 5,188.36
6-Month CDs	\$ 33,095.56
<b>Total in Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$ 40,488.48</b>

**Minutes of Executive Meeting April 1, 2023 1:30 p.m.**  
**115 Village Road**  
**Regarding bequest from Pat Decato Baker**

Present: Liz Kirby, president, Catherine Stearns, vice-president, Heather Mather, treasurer, Mary Fanelli, secretary.

This meeting was called to order at 1:45 p.m. to discuss a sizeable restricted bequest (to be held and used for a permanent building) from Pat (Gross) (Decato) Baker's trust, of which we were notified by mail on March 27, 2023. Pat died on December 17, 2022.

Mary, who received the paperwork, felt that it was important to let the officers of the board know of the bequest in case there were questions to be asked of the Bar Harbor Wealth Management Company, who is serving as trustee for Pat's estate.

All documents were scanned and sent to the officers before the meeting and a thorough discussion was held resulting in a number of questions that we thought should be answered by the Trust Company before presenting the contents of the bequest to the board.

Quite coincidentally, our new treasurer, Heather Mather, had just been to a seminar given by Atty. Michael Wood of New London, who is a specialist in wills and trusts. Heather has agreed to contact Bar Harbor Wealth Management and speak to them about our questions and concerns regarding the bequest. Hopefully, these questions will have been answered by the time we have our next board meeting on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

Another topic that Liz feels we should address, because of the size of the bequest, is D&O (directors and officers) insurance, which we had dropped a couple of years back when we felt that our liability insurance was adequate under our present circumstances. Mary looked into this again and, because we do not have any employees, (over 90% of claims on D&O insurance are employee related), we felt that the bequest was not a reason to reinstitute D&O insurance at this time. It may be a while before we even receive the bequest because it has to go to probate court to settle an IRA beneficiary matter that was overlooked before Pat died.

This topic should be revisited when we actually decide to rent or purchase a new home.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. Respectfully submitted, Mary Fanelli, Secretary

- See next page for Heather's synopsis of the trust.-

## Patricia G. Decato Revocable Trust

Managed by Bar Harbor Wealth Management

- Pat Baker passed away on December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
- She named Wilmot Historical Society as a beneficiary (25%) on her trust, specifically “to be held and used for a permanent building.”
- Pat’s assets included:
  - Cash assets in the amount of \$1,243,884.97 (as of 3/31/23), held in a money market account at Bar Harbor Bank
  - An IRA in the amount of \$235,172.52 (market value as of 3/31/23)
- Pat’s IRA listed her deceased husband, Frank, as the sole beneficiary – will have to go to probate to name Pat’s Estate as the beneficiary.
- Bar Harbor Wealth Management will continue to act as the Successor Trustee of Pat’s Trust, handling claims from creditors, paying bills/taxes, etc. until the Estate can be settled by distributing funds. Do not sign the release from indemnity. Mary posed, Nola 2d
- Bar Harbor Wealth Management is entitled to “retain reasonable sums as compensation for its services” which will likely be 1-3% of the Estate’s value.

(Compiled by Heather Mather 4/11/2023)