

Wilmot Historical Society
Minutes
Wilmot Town Office
July 13, 2023

Liz Kirby called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

Present were Catherine Stearns, Judy Hauck, Mary Fanelli, Heather Mather, Marc Davis, and Bruce Sanborn. Sara Timberlake arrived later.

Guest: Natalie Hamilton

Minutes from June 8, 2023 were accepted as distributed.

Treasurer's Report – Accepted (See page 2)

Old Business

Acquisitions Committee

- There have been no new acquisitions added, since our last meeting.
- Further sorting of Walter Walker's collection is currently on hold. Catherine read an intriguing letter which was copied into John Stearns' 1909 surveying field notebook by his father, Minot Stearns. This rather fiery and uncomplimentary letter was written in 1865 by John M. Shirley, a lawyer from Andover, to George W. Bagley. It would be interesting to find a letter of reply.
- Liz had some tax receipts from the 1950s that she found when cleaning out Clayton Nowell's house.

Genealogy Committee – Catherine

Karen Hanson shared an interesting story from the book by Ralph G. Chafee, titled Elder Moody's Hat and other stories of Andover. It was about Adoniram Morrison, one of 18 children, who "...was farmed out for a few years when 14 years old, but soon drifted into the life of a recluse and remained one until his death at 54."

Karen also read from the memoirs of an aunt about the high school that was created in the upstairs of the Andover fire house when it was decided by Proctor Academy that they would no longer admit women into the school and after two years planned to close the high school all together. There were also students from Wilmot and other towns enrolled there at that time. We will have to look further into how this affected the schooling of Wilmot children.

It was interesting to note that the woman writing the memoirs was also taken from her family into another family at some point in her life. This seems to have been not that unusual and often occurred because of the death of a father or other misfortune that affected the financial situation of a family.

Andover Old Time Fair is Sunday, August 6th 2023 from 9am-2pm. Liz asked who could help Catherine set up a tent and table. Judy offered to help. If anyone else wishes to participate, his/her presence would be welcomed.

Bandstand Supper August 12th 2023

Sara Timberlake is taking charge of the supper this year. Mary gave her a list of what has been done in past years.

- We decided to have Denise's mac and cheese again with coleslaw, dessert, and a drink.
- Mary will ask Joanne Franklin if we can use her drink dispenser.
- Everyone was asked to bring some cookies. Sara will also solicit.
- Coleslaw: Judy, Catherine, Mary, and Heather.
- Liz will get segmented plates and other paper products.
- Mary will provide stainless forks.
- We discussed not having a fixed price but a "suggested donation."

New Business

- Liz distributed a list of nearby historical societies and encouraged everyone to visit to get some ideas of what others are doing.
- The History Room is open 9am – 12noon every Saturday through Sept 30th.
Docents are needed. Docent orientation is available if we get new people to sign up.

Building Committee - lots of discussion about how to go about choosing a design and securing property. Bruce offered to go to the Wilmot Selectboard meeting on July 26, 6 p.m., to see if the BOS is amenable to allowing the WHS to build on the property across from the town hall and library.

If anyone has suggestions for the WHS new home, please send them to Bruce <bruce@burpeehill.com>. Judy has already made a tentative layout using the dimensions of a school house for square footage.

Next meeting is Thursday, August 10, 2023 at 5 p.m. in the town office.

We adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Next Genealogy Committee – Wednesday 2 August 2023, 6:30 PM in WHS room.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Fanelli, secretary

WHS Treasurer's Report - July 2023 (Fiscal Year Month 9)	
Income	
Dues	\$ 445.00
Donations	\$ 3,686.00
Books	\$ 23.00
Interest	\$ 52.58
Total Income:	\$ 4,206.58
Expenses	
Oral Histories	\$ 4,900.00
Dues/Fees	\$ 2,386.00
Print/Advertising	\$ 502.72
Equipment	\$ 200.00
Postage	\$ 190.19
Digitizing	\$ 45.00
Total Expenses:	\$ 8,223.91
Net Gain/Loss	\$ (4,017.33)
Total Cash Assets	
	\$ 39,432.48
Encumbrances	
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
Total Encumbered Cash:	\$ 33,845.56
Total Unencumbered Cash:	\$ 5,586.92
Bank Accounts	
Operating Checking	\$ 1,823.56
Money Market	\$ 4,513.36
6-Month CDs	\$ 33,095.56
Total in Bank Accounts	\$ 39,432.48

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Prepared 7/1/23