

NEWBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2010

Board Members Present: Barbara Steward (Chair), Dennis Pavlicek, Margie Weiler, William Weiler, Deane Geddes, Mary Thayer, Robert Morris, Shelly Candidus

Members Present: Rich Cole, Gay Sheary, Marty Sheary, Dave Thayer

Chairperson Steward called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Shelly Candidus volunteered to act as secretary *pro tem*.

The minutes of March 4, 2010 were reviewed and a couple of minor corrections were noted. The minutes were approved as amended.

The Treasurer's report was presented by Ms. Weiler. It was noted that membership now stands at 133. The 3/4/2010 balance was \$15,958.26 and the 5/6/2010 balance was \$15,909.32, with the major expense being the cost of preparing and mailing the PALS brochure.

Ms. Steward announced that the Newbury Beautification Committee has purchased and donated two wooden window boxes to be placed on Sherman Hall. The NBC will install, plant and maintain the boxes.

Ms. Steward announced that she is in the process of moving to her Newbury summer home and her access to email will be limited. The board was advised to call her if there is pressing business. Ms. Steward distributed information about a workshop which might be of interest to the board.

Old Business:

Archives: Mr. Weiler said he had a visit from a woman he has been in touch with who wants to gather information about Newbury property once held by her family. He used the 1809 Willey map superimposed on a modern town map to locate the land in question on present day Route 103A. Mr. Weiler has gathered additional information on Charles Fowler which he has added to the Fowler file in the archives.

Ms. Steward reported that she has email inquiries from a woman who recently acquired a painting of a ship under full sail signed by Ernest Sherman. The buyer wanted to know the provenance of the picture. She intends to sell it on ebay. Mr. Pavlicek volunteered to share this information with Rex Sherman, son of Ernest.

House Markers: It was noted again that Mr. Cole is no longer available to make the signs for the House Marker project. He reported that he no longer has the wood previously used for the signs. Mr. Geddes offered to make future signs as needed, and asked if fonts and dimensions were available. Mr. Cole said he had a stencil and it was agreed he and Mr. Geddes would work out the details.

Gay Sheary reported that Erica Hokanson found information on this project on the HS webpage and she would like to apply for a house marker. She is owner of the old Cilley Tavern building (now the sport shop *OutSpokin* ') and this is generally agreed to be the oldest standing structure in Newbury, having been built between 1780-1790. There was some discussion as to why this building had not been identified on the original list of historic buildings. Ms. Sheary will follow up with Ms. Hokanson.

Membership Flyer/Mailing Date: Mr. Cole distributed a draft brochure designed to solicit new/renewed membership. The board reviewed the draft and considerable discussion and suggestions followed. Mr. Cole collected the suggestions and will incorporate them into a new draft to be distributed via email to the board. Mr. Cole asked if we are going to self-publish. He suggested mailing the brochure to all taxpayers in order to reach non-residents. Ms. Thayer said this was a good idea. Mr. Weiler commented that we have spent extra postage money to do this every two or three years. Ms. Weiler said responses to these mailings were poor, but funds were available to try it again this time. Mr. Pavlicek said the required list would run about 1300 names and could be printed out by his office. Mr. Cole suggested we include a reply envelope with the brochure (without return postage). Ms. Weiler said it was impractical to print out that many envelopes. Ms. Thayer said we could use labels rather than printing them. Ms. Weiler moved that the brochure be sent to all taxpayers (except corporations) with a reply envelope. The motion was seconded and carried. Ms. Steward reminded the board members to watch for Mr. Cole's email with revisions and to reply promptly so the mailing can go out on a timely basis well in advance of the annual meeting in July.

The mailing will include the brochure and House Marker insert and a notice of the annual meeting which will be printed on yellow paper. Ms. Candidus asked if it was allowable to use pictures from the *Newbury* book in the brochure, per our agreement about picture reproduction with Arcadia Publishing. Mr. Weiler said this use by the society was permitted. Mr. Morris commented that we should try to solicit business membership. Ms. Steward agreed and said we might try to add this to the brochure.

Participation at Town Meeting: There was a consensus that our presence with a table for selling publications and membership at Town Meeting was a wasted effort.

We Remember Newbury Program/PALS Mailing: Ms. Steward remarked that she was able to view the pictures Mr. Weiler put together which unfortunately could not be viewed at the session on May 2nd. She said there were wonderful old farm pictures on the disk and we would find another occasion to show it. Mr. Geddes suggested that it might be made available at the caboose museum. Mr. Weiler remarked that the subject was farming, not railroads. Mr. Morris suggested the Information Booth, and Mr. Cole suggested the library as a viewing location. Ms. Steward suggested that the pictures might be displayed in the Town Office lobby in an electronic frame.

Ms. Candidus said Mr. Crickman has prepared a CD of the whole program content. She has listened to it and found it to be of very good quality. The question came up regarding a subject for future programs. "Remembering Blodgett's Landing" and "Entertainment" were two suggestions.

It was noted that the PALS brochure had been mailed and distributed locally.

Annual Meeting: Ms. Steward reminded the board that everything for the July 18th meeting needs to be addressed now. Ms. Thayer will take care of hospitality/refreshments. Ms. Candidus will address publicity, including a poster. Mr. Geddes will notify Judy LaPorte for inclusion in her column in *the InterTown Record*. Ron Garceau has included the date in the summer issue of *SooNipi*.

Genealogy Page for Website: No report was available on this topic.

Nominating Committee/Director Emeritus: Mr. Pavlicek, head of the committee, reported that he and members Ms. Candidus and Ms. Sheary had met to discuss a nominee for the one position that will be open. (Ms. Thayer and Mr. Morris wish to extend their directorships.) Frank Perrotta will be nominated to fill the open position. Mr. Pavlicek also reported that he has spoken to Alice Lynn and she is happy to be named the Society's first Director Emeritus. A special announcement to this effect will be made at the Annual Meeting, and Mr. Pavlicek and Mr. Geddes will follow up. It was suggested that a plaque should be prepared for Ms. Lynn, to be signed by all the board members one month prior to the meeting. Flowers should be procured.

New Business:

Scenic Byway: Mr. Pavlicek reported that there is renewed interest in expanding the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission Scenic Byway. Karen Baron and Karen Zurheide are representing Newbury's portion of the byway. There are plans to include New London and extend the byway around the entire lake. A grant appeal is being prepared to fund expansion of the signage and implement a new website highlighting the cultural aspects of the scenic byway. If a grant is approved, a subcommittee will be formed, to be made up from members of the local historical societies. A decision on the grant should be made by late fall, 2010.

Old Home Day: The question was raised: to what extent should the Historical Society be involved? It was suggested that the *Newbury* book should be sold, a show could be put together from the farm slides, etc. Mr. Weiler said he still has the display of three large posters used previously at the Train Station.

Ms. Thayer noted that Country Houses real estate will hold a yard sale, with proceeds to benefit the Newbury Beautification Committee and the food bank. They are looking for items for the sale. Mr. Pavlicek said more activities are scheduled for the afternoon this year. Mr. Morris asked if Fishersfield would be a site for activities. Mr. Pavlicek said this site would be part of the triathlon but not for other activities, as it is difficult to move people back and forth, parking is limited, etc. Ms. Steward asked for volunteers to work on the society's participation, and Mr. Morris volunteered.

Spring Newsletter: Ms. Steward said she has plenty of material, since Mr. Weiler has supplied extensive information on the Fowler family, the Mountain House, etc. It was decided to prepare the newsletter for mailing by the end of the month.

Other Business: Mr. Pavlicek reported that there are old stage curtains in the Veterans' Hall. He contacted the Division of Historical Resources and has arranged for an expert from Burlington, VT to evaluate these hangings and also the stage curtains and painted side pieces at the old Town Hall. If they are determined to have value, he will investigate a grant for restoration and preservation.

Mr. Weiler noted with regret the recent death of Milly Kittridge, a long-time, dedicated and active leader of the Bradford Historical Society.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. The next meeting will be the Annual Meeting, to be held on July 18th at the Town Office at 2 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Candidus, secretary *pro tem*.

