

Newbury Historical Society
May 12 2016

Board members present: Gay Sheary, Bill Weiler, Margie Weiler, Paula Falkowski, Deane Geddes, and Ashley Geddes.

Bill called the meeting to order at **7:03 PM**.

Minutes: The Minutes of 3/10/2016 were accepted, with one correction from Deane.

Treasurer's Report: Margie gave Claire's report. The account balances on May 11 were checking \$464.71, savings \$19,677.51, 3year cd \$2,575.42, 30-48 mo. cd \$2924.53, and 22.00 in cash for a total of \$25,664.17. There was income of \$1000 from the Town. The Conservation Fund balance remained \$974.20, the Life Member Fund balance was \$5,600.00, and the operating fund was \$18,452.29. There were questions about a difference of about \$400 between the amounts for 4/30 and 5/11; Margie will ask Claire about it.

OLD BUSINESS:

Annual Meeting: Gay reported that Ashley is doing the publicity and said that it should mention the Humanities Council support. They ask that we not advertise the business meeting and state the time for the talk to be for the start of the talk (2:15). The new newsletter and PALS give the times for both. Gay said that Joy will send a PALS brochure to the speaker, Paul Wainright, and the Center Meetinghouse members. The program will be at the Center Meetinghouse. Gay asked everyone to bring refreshments. Margie pointed out that we have one more Board Meeting before the meeting to finalize arrangements.

House Markers: Gay said she wants to mention this at the next COA meeting. Margie offered to give her some of the new brochures. Deane asked how many of the oldest houses in town have markers. Gay has spreadsheet from the Town but Bill doubted the accuracy of the construction dates.

Memberships: Margie has informed Marilyn that she will be doing the PastPerfect work as well as the other membership work.

Newsletter: Deane said that there will be a mailing meeting Monday. Bill will get the stickers and will check the weight of this mailing and the PALS brochures. Margie will prepare address labels for both and will also get the stamps. Claire has given her information on payment for one new membership; it was noted that this was not obvious in the Treasurer's report.

Archives: Bill has worked with the new Society "cloud" website. John Lyon was very pleased with it, and Marilyn as well. Bill has accessioned into the vault, and Margie has entered in PastPerfect, three books from the South Newbury Church and the Lake House hotel register. Bill noted that the process requires gathering and entering a lot of detailed information. Margie said that this can be done on any computer, such as a laptop, and transferred to the master database on her computer. She entered the data generated by the organizers that set up the existing vault storage system. Deane asked about an index; Margie said that instead there is search capability with search terms defined. Bill would like us to move the photograph records out of the PastPerfect Archives collection into the Photographs collection. Margie said that the next step with the collection is to improve the storage and add details to the accession information.

History Committee: Deane reported that he sent out the documents discussed at the last meeting and said that he wants to do a road trip next. This got a lot of interest. He wrote to Chan Blodgett thanking him for his talking to them about Sutton. He has been talking with Sue Ellen Stark who lives on Newbury Heights and who used to run the Frost Top; her father Charles Stark was a local character who owned several homes in the area; Sue lives in one of these.

Old Home Day: Bill and Paula have confirmed with Dennis for a space in front of the library.

South Newbury Buildings: Paula said that she had been too busy with work to do much. She said that the Town has approved placing a small lending library in the area, similar to ones appearing in other locations (LittleFreeLibrary.org). Bill needs to work with the new Board of Selectmen on the next steps in the buildings. He needs to find an engineer to work on a wiring plan, including deciding whether to have capability for stage plays. Ashley and Paula talked about other groups putting on plays in Newbury. He wants to meet there with Paula; Deane suggested the Board have another “walkabout” soon. Bill says that the building is nearly ready for use except that it needs a new heating system and there is no plan for toilet facilities. There is room on the site for a septic system but there is no local interest spending money for the use of these buildings.

Web Site: Margie continues to keep the web site up to date, and asked for suggestions.

Family Life Memberships: Margie said that our bylaws limit our membership classes to Individual, Family, Life, Business, and Honorary. We need a vote at the annual meeting to amend the bylaws, by a 2/3 majority, to allow family life memberships. Margie also said that we must include this amendment in our call to the meeting, and suggested including it in the mailing going out next week. She proposed that we submit this amendment: Article III Section B: Change the first sentence from “There shall be 5 classes of membership: Individual, Family, Life, Business, and Honorary. To “There shall be 6 classes of membership: Individual, Family, Life, Family Life, Business, and Honorary”. She will post this on the web site. She also noted that we are supposed to notify the State of this change. Bill will place this on the agenda.

Bill reminded the Board that we now have 3 vacancies and asked everyone to look for candidates.

NEW BUSINESS: Deane asked us to consider having an “e-newsletter.” This would not be instead of the written newsletter but just a test to see if there is interest. We could place the .pdf version of our new newsletter on the web site. Bill said that Marilyn Soper recently suggested that we get members’ email addresses so that we could send newsletters to them more cheaply; but he said that this creates only digital documents, which is contrary to our interest in preserving history. Margie also said that we should use our money to promote interest rather than trying to save money on printing. Deane would like to have articles on such subjects as the railroad (possibly written by John Warren) or the hotels. For the History Committee road trip he asked Bill for some information on the railroad.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Weiler, Secretary

MEETING DATES: Board Meetings (2nd Thursday, odd months): **July 14, Sept 8, Nov 10.**