

Newbury Historical Society
Minutes
November 8, 2018

Board members present: Ashley Geddes, Bill Weiler, Gay Sheary, Paula Falkowski and John Lyons.

The meeting was called to order at 2:34 p.m.

Minutes: The Minutes of September 13, 2018 were approved and accepted.

Treasurer's Report: See attached.

Election of Officers: The members present voted to keep Deane Geddes as Vice President, Bill Weiler as Treasurer and Paula Falkowski as Secretary.

Membership: Margie was not present to give an update.

Annual Meeting: John reported that Steve Taylor's presentation of *New Hampshire's One-Room Rural Schools: The Romance and the Reality* on September 16 was successful. There were about 50 people in attendance. We discussed the form the N.H. Humanities Council has groups complete after one of their programs. John said he objects to the form, which asks for race and ethnicity. The group gave John authority to send a letter to the Humanities Council on behalf of the NHS stating that we are uncomfortable with the form.

Archives: Bill reported that on October 24 seven town books were sent to the New England Document Conservation Center in Andover, Mass. to be digitized. On October 31, Lynn Clark began working on organizing the archives in Sherman Hall. Bill said he bought two thumb drives to back up the system, one of which will be kept in the vault.

Historic House Markers: Gay said she gave Barbara Steward a historic marker dated 1832 for the Center Meeting House. She also reported that, because the South Newbury historic buildings were nominated to be on State Register of Historic Places, Bill requested two markers, one for the Grange Hall (1902) and one for Sherman Hall (1916). She is working with Bruce McKenzie to accomplish this. John asked if a list of houses with markers existed. Gay said there is one on the NHS website, but it is not totally up to date.

History Committee: The October meeting focused on Great Island. John Greenwood and two residents of Great Island helped make for a lively discussion. John would like to get more people involved and suggested developing a 12-month agenda. Ashley said publicizing a three-month program would be more manageable. John said we should have a resource of presenters, such as other area historical societies, for an exchange of ideas. John would like all board members to email him with at list two ideas.

Newsletter: John has started working on an article about water troughs in Newbury. He said Ed Thorson is writing an article about a cellar hole and artifact he found on Mt. Sunapee.

Old Home Day: Bill would like to take this action item off the agenda list. Paula would like to keep it open if there is possible future interest. The group agreed to keep it on for the time being.

South Newbury Buildings: Bill reported that in October the three South Newbury historic buildings were nominated to be on the State Register of Historic Places. The town select board held a tour of the buildings on October 18, which was attended by over a dozen people.

Website: On behalf of Margie, Bill reported that the NHS website crashed while she was working on it. They are still in the process of getting it back up and running.

Old Business: Gay gave a report on her progress in getting a historic marker for the former casino in Blodgett Landing. She presented the proposed text and graphics along with the quotes for painting (\$500) and the granite base (\$975). A motion to have Gay proceed with getting a marker was passed unanimously.

Town History Committee: John presented a motion regarding the town history financial plan. Bill made motion to amend it, and the following motion was passed unanimously: *Resolved; that the Newbury Historical Society approves the Town History Committee's Financial Plan by John Lyons and will support the funding to produce a History of Newbury in an amount estimated to be \$36,000.* Discussion followed about the funding by the NHS. It was revealed that Bill Weiler would help fund the project.

Other Business: John made a motion to have the Newbury Historical Society explore the feasibility of utilizing one of the buildings in South Newbury to house a museum. The motion passed.

Bill made a request for reimbursement of \$306.92 for supplies he purchased for the archiving project. The group voted in favor of reimbursing Bill.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Paula Falkowski, Secretary

2019 Board Meetings (2:30 p.m.):

January 10
March 14
May 9
July 11
September 12
November 14