

WHS Board of Directors Meeting
August 21, 2018
Steele Community Room, 4:00pm

In attendance: Barb Farr, Jack Carter, Jan Gendreau, Paul Willard, Jim Walton, Betty Jones, Cheryl Casey

I. Call to order, 4:03pm

II. Motion to approve last meeting minutes - Jack

A. Seconded by Jim

B. No discussion, unanimously approved

III. Treasurer's Report and Membership update - Paul

A. Membership: We lost two members to death in the last month (Lois Sabin and Becky Higgins). No new members, so we're at 189.

1. Jim: We are shooting for 200 by the end of the year

B. Treasury: We have a total of \$126,783.78 in the accounts, \$23,318.99 in the checking account specifically. Most of our assets are in the mutual fund.

1. The one thing Paul hasn't done is move the money from the capital campaign to the regular budget to cover the train station refresh total expenditure. (About \$3400).

2. Jan: How come some of the numbers went down?

a. Paul: We spent money on some pricier things like computers, the T Rowe Price fluctuates day to day, and it's a time of the year when we have less coming in at the same time.

IV. Curator's Report - Jack

A. Arrival of Rialto poster, spoon from EBay

B. Showed framed pencil sketch found in closet upstairs in Janes house - the one we hope/wish is Franny Butler (Henry Janes's mother)

C. Went through storage units with Tracy, documenting boxes of textiles (uniforms, linens from the 1860s, christening gown, and other items, all seemingly in good shape)

1. Took photographs, documented, and put them back in the box.

2. If we had space, it would be great to have mannequins to put some of the clothing on and the display them. Maybe in the future the Library would be amenable to rotating or temporary displays. The capital campaign money includes purchasing the mannequins.

a. Barb: We could do a special exhibit or fashion show.

b. Betty: Fashion show program?

D. Saturday open house - we need one person for each 2-hour time slot. Jim is able to do some time, and Barb can do part of it. Jack will be there. One more person will be great.

1. For September, we're okay but need one more for the morning slot. In October, Anne Imhoff is currently the only person.

2. Barb and Paul say they can both come in October.

E. The wall map is finished, after some setbacks. It is hanging in the town clerk's office. There is a bit of a glare from the ceiling lights. Thanks to Jan, Chuck, Barb, and Woody for the help in getting it hung.

F. Hopefully we can hang the Arvad's panels soon - this project is in process.

G. Walking tour: We only have one box of about 100 left of the brochures. Barb is getting a price for reprinting. Laura Parette was going to get the price and who printed them. Some things need to be changed/updated - Jack will work with Laura/RW.

1. Barb: There will be a kiosk that will feature this brochure, after the Main Street project is complete.

H. Eight visitors to the History Center in August, and they are from all over - Utah, Kansas, CT among them. It's more than we get for an Open House

I. Barb: Harriet Grenier donated some posters, and there was also a collection of photos of the early police department donated.

J. Paul: Mary and Michael Wilder donated a book about vacation hints in Waterbury from about 1906.

V. Issue of duplicate items in our collections - Would people frown on a yard sale where we are selling of Waterbury items that were donated to be preserving?

A. Paul: Linda's son used to sell for the Society on EBay all the time. If someone would do that for us again, we could do it. It has been a successful strategy in the past. No one has ever criticized us for that.

1. Jan: Wes Kaiser would be quicker at it than anyone else to start this up again

2. Paul: Will talk with Wes, and if we offer him a percentage of the sales, he might be more willing

B. Barb: First thing we need to do is identify the duplicates and what else we need to deaccess. We need to pre-approve the deaccession list via the process stated in the Bylaws, and then hopefully Wes will do EBay.

1. Jack will work with Tracy on generating this list.

VI. Addressing questions about various artifacts brought up at the last BoD meeting - Paul

A. Peter Dean's book: \$38.95 to purchase, but the Library has a copy (question from last BoD meeting). So we don't need to purchase.

B. Projector bulb cost: Balopticon, and the manual was in the box with the projector. Even better, stuffed into the manual, was a paper listing the dates and places in which Theron S. Dean (chairman, publicity committee for Green Mountain Club) showed lantern slides of the green mountains during 1917. Document is dated 1-8-1918.

1. Jim: Leave a copy with the book and put the original artifact in a sleeve in an archive.

2. Paul: Bulb can be found online for replacement.

VII. Email from Denton Conrad - Paul: Claiming items are missing from the index recently posted on the website, that he and his mother donated.

A. Paul responded: Mr. Conrad has misunderstood the scope of the list as only including papers and photographs. He is referring to other kinds of artifacts, including textiles, and those gifts are all still intact.

B. Relatedly, Mr. Conrad would like to donate maple furniture (dry sink made by Davison, and maybe two other pieces - coffee table and end table). Will provide certificate of authenticity.

1. Paul: Davison's also sold furniture made elsewhere, so we don't yet have the

guarantee that the purchase of the furniture at Davison's was made by Davison in Waterbury. The dry sink, which is also an item for possible later donation, is the only one of the three pieces that are labeled. It doesn't look professionally stamped.

2. Jack: Would like a better picture of the dry sink, and we could ask Brian Lindner, who worked at Davison's, about the Davison's practice of labeling furniture. If it is an authentic Davison piece, then we might want it because it is also a functional piece for helping us display things in the History Center.

3. Paul will check with Brian. If he has no idea, we will likely let it go.

VIII. Train rail bridge redecoration - Paul. The architect did a lot of extra pictures that aren't being used. Donated to the school and students are making notecards out of them. The Education Committee has been identifying the places and writing up a little history for MK Monley to put on them.

A. Barb: Art will be installed on this coming Sunday, August 26 (later postponed to September 9th). The surrounding brush has been cleared in preparation. Main St will be closed by the underpass, with a detour via Union and Stowe Streets. 7am - 4pm closure, open sooner if done sooner. People can watch from the post office or the Pack and Send lot. Grand celebration on September 22, the fall equinox. The backlighting will not come on until that date, and will be on only at night, off during the day.

IX. Archivist report - Barb for Tracy

A. Visited with Jack at the storage units

B. Thank you letters for donations

C. Identified recent donations that we don't need to take in.

D. Barb: Have told Tracy that we as a Board are committed to the Past Perfect project and properly cataloguing what we already have and would like to set a goal date for going live online. Let's make the leap and shoot for November 1. General agreement to set date goal.

E. Barb: Still needing to check on cost of shelving, brought up at last meeting.

1. Paul: remember that Tracy advised against plastic, but with our acid-free boxes, do we have to worry about that?

2. Barb: Plastic can sag over time, so metal or wood are definitely preferable

3. Jack will check Surplus and other options.

X. Program Committee - Betty

A. Fantastic July meeting. Gordon Miller took a great photo array and Cheryl wrote an article that appeared on the front page of the Record. The rain never really came but it all worked out well at the Church.

1. Steve Cormier was really terrific at running with the idea and the program came out really great.

2. Emailed thank you's to Steve, Joel, and Jack. Jack Donovan mentioned that they could do something else again in the future.

3. \$5 in the donation jar.

B. We need more material to sell at programs - as in, different things. People are looking for items and already have what we have to offer.

1. Barb will look into what it would cost to reproduce and print the Waterbury Vacation Hints booklet.

C. October meeting: Will take place in Steele Community Room. Everything is in place for that program.

D. January meeting will be about the Caboose on Henry Hough Rd. Cami Mason is spearheading that program.

E. Additional business: Sunday edition of Burlington Free Press all about the Heritage Trail and Vermonters in the Civil War. Not a single mention of Dr. Janes. Why aren't we on the Heritage Trail? Shouldn't we do something about this? Jack will review the material to evaluate what we should perhaps do.

XI. Newsletter - Cheryl

A. Focus on Wallace Farm, waiting for content from Kay Wallace and Theresa Wood.

B. Will use a shortened version of program article from Record

C. Will use a shortened version of Record article about Bob's party

XII. Other Business -

A. Barb - Grants for chimney project written with Anne. Even if they don't come through, enough money has come in through fundraising/donations to do two of the chimneys, and if we get grant money, we can then do all three. We should hear in September about the grants.

B. No new business identified.

XIII. Motion to adjourn - Paul

A. Jim seconded

B. Unanimously approved

Meeting Adjourned 5:44 p.m.