

**Waterbury Historical Society**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**February 15, 2019**  
**Steele Community Room**

*In attendance:* Barb Farr, Paul Willard, Jan Gendreau, Jack Carter, Cheryl Casey, Betty Jones, Jim Walton, Anne Imhoff, Herschel Murray

- I. Call to order 11:01 a.m. by President Barb Farr
  
- II. Motion to approve minutes
  - A. Second
  - B. One correction - in the cost of the Hope Davey Pavilion for the July program — should be \$100 instead of \$75, as Town has increased cost
  - C. Approved as amended unanimously
  
- III. Jan's updates to November minutes have been made, so we still need to approve them. Will do that next month.
  
- IV. Treasurer's report
  - A. Paul reports an increase of \$195 in the checking account.
  - B. T Rowe Price is up \$2700, as January was the best month the stock market has in years.
  - C. Total value of all accounts as of this date is \$131,573.97
  - D. Paul filed forms with IRS for 2018, and it has been accepted.
  - E. Budget for 2019 is adjusted from the last meeting, adding a couple of expenses and reducing a couple of expenses. The proposed budget is \$17,354.95
    1. Right now, if income meets proposed, we will come out ahead by about \$200.
    2. Sandy is still supported at 10 hours per week.
    3. A decision needs to be made for the Archivist position; currently, the budget extends it 10 weeks beyond original grant money (\$2203.00). Discussion about maintaining position at 5 hours/week to have Tracy continue with office work and archiving for the year. Barb will work up the numbers and report back.
  - F. Membership is at 203.
  - G. Capital campaign money is still coming in and we're over \$6,000.
    1. Jim suggested we compile profiles of people who become members (in-state/out-of-state, why they join, why they donate, etc.)

V. Herschel Murray — vacation booklet

- A. Suggestion that we write “desk copy” on one and put it in the locked drawer at the train station. It is a great resource to show visitors.
- B. Jack will put it in the drawer.

VI. Curator’s report

- A. Jack is working on historic tour brochure. First proof is done, with more color, different photos. Laura (Parette) will fine-tune it; and we should be able to push this out in about a month.
- B. Barb noted that five kiosks will be part of the new Main St. when it is done, with “you are here” and information about what to do in that immediate vicinity. Some of the information in this brochure will be used on the kiosk at the train station. These kiosks will also supplement/support the brochure.
- C. Jim—how do we link the cemetery commissioners and the graveyards to our tour material? In particular, the highlighted spots in Hope Cemetery.
  - 1. Anne—the program committee is planning a presentation about Waterbury cemeteries for the October program and some of their highlight personages. This presentation will then be turned into a booklet.
  - 2. Jim—hoping for something that specifically supports a walking tour.
  - 3. All in agreement that booklet is still a great idea.
- D. Discussion of how we can better mark some of our cemeteries to point people to them, especially the old Center cemetery and the one off Shaw Mansion/Loomis Hill. Jack reports that the Cemetery Committee is undertaking work to make the cemeteries more attractive, like painting fence posts and putting up signs.
- E. Barb—we can support the Cemetery Committee in how they decide to deal with the Loomis Hill space, in particular, but this is probably meant to be in their purview.
- F. Jan is already putting together a scrapbook about Waterbury cemeteries, from the Ghost walks. Program committee needs to coordinate with Jan about this October program. Jan also suggests an app for the walking tour, and it might be a terrific Eagle project. She will research the idea of using QR codes.

VII. Archivist report

- A. Barb reported in Tracey’s absence.

- B. Rachel Onuf from Vermont Records and was very helpful in steering Tracy toward the big picture of our inventory in Past Perfect so that we can establish our presence online, then fill in the details from there.
- C. Tracy will draft an instruction sheet for volunteers to use when helping to put data into Past Perfect.

VIII. Program committee report

- A. Some discussion about the location for the April program. Betty gets the Legion free as a member. The Main St. work won't get in the way of having the program in the Steele Community Room, but Brian Lindner tends to draw a larger crowd. Our programs are attracting a lot of attendance, and some people complain about the parking and seating situation. The Legion would provide a commensurate amount of parking, but the space is much larger. Agreement that we will stay in Steele for now.
- B. Program will happen at the usual time of 7pm, on April 24.
- C. John Woodruff came to the most recent program committee meeting to discuss the cemetery program in October. He will help out the committee, and has some great maps for us to use. Committee picked about 7 cemeteries that it will probably showcase.
- D. Betty will follow up with the 40th Army Band of the Vermont National Guard to potentially hold a special program this summer. Discussion of holding the event at the Reservoir.

IX. Nominating committee

- A. Jack indicates that Bill Woodruff is interested in being a candidate, but he isn't yet a member. Barb will follow up.
- B. Two others need to be on the committee.
- C. We need a secretary to replace Cheryl because she cannot consistently make meetings to take the minutes. Paul recommended the committee reach out to Bev Young. Other names suggested were Mary Blake and Bill April.

X. Discussion of adding members to the Board — brought forth by Jim

- A. Standing committee chairs could be ex officio members of the board (changing bylaws), to further support their leadership. They have always been invited, but they may be more inclined to be here if they are officially members of the Board. It would also be a way to draw people into leadership in other capacities.
- B. To make a bylaw change, we would have to go before the full membership at the annual meeting in April, and the changes have to be warned in advance. Anne

and Jim will review the bylaws and recommend changes to Barb so that the Board can review and discuss at the next Board meeting. If Board agrees, the changes will be warned in the Spring newsletter, in advance of the April general business meeting.

XI. Fundraisers report

- A. Jan displayed some of the MMER railroad ties, one painted with polyurethane, with a small plaque on the bottom, "Mt. Mansfield Electric Rail, 1897-1932."
  - 1. Decision made to use the clear rubber feet rather than the black on the bottoms.
  - 2. Decision made to go with the polyurethane model.
  - 3. Discussion of what to charge. Suggestion of \$25 for the small ties and \$40 for the larger ties. The larger ties are nearly twice the size. Two large for \$75.
  - 4. We have about 18 total ties to sell.
  - 5. Jan will send photos and information so Cheryl can put the information in the newsletter to encourage sales at the April program, which is railroad-related.
- B. Mock-ups for rail art cards — photos to choose from, and what language needs to be on the back of the cards for giving credit. Barb will check on information for the back of the card.
  - 1. Darrick estimated printing cost of 75 cents apiece for card + envelope
  - 2. We could probably get \$2.50 if sold individually, and sell them at meetings, Stowe Street Emporium, Bridgeside Books, and Hiata's shop in the Center. We could also sell them as a package of 6 for \$12.
- C. Ghost Walk —
  - 1. American Legion is celebrating 100th anniversary this year, but our Waterbury chapter isn't celebrating until next year. This event will gear everyone up.
  - 2. Jan and Jack are considering who the four or five people will be to feature. Choice of figures will help determine which cemetery. They are hoping to include a woman. Dr. Orton was suggested. Jan has reached out to Brian Lindner and Chris Wood for ideas as well.

XII. Other business —

- A. Trivia: Twenty-five people came to play trivia. Skip Flanders was projectionist; Jane Willard hosted; Cheryl Casey emceed; Grace Sweet supported with research on the answers. Feedback was positive and people seemed to have a great time.

1. Jan — something like this would be a fun program for the future
  2. Jack — VHS answers were not 100%.
- B. We could do more of our own research, focus more on Waterbury. Outreach and Program Committees could collaborate on a program.
  - C. Newsletter —
  - D. Cheryl adjusted submission deadline to March 7 since there would be a printing delay while we address the possible bylaws change. Plenty of content available. Hoping Chuck Magnus will write a short piece about his caboose program.
  - E. Email subscriptions are up to 40.
  - F. Town budget includes Farrar Historic District/Butler Street, at \$11,000 to be approved by voters at Town Meeting.
  - G. Historical Records program — we have free access to VT newspapers through VHS. Barb will send out information.
  - H. Next meeting is March 15, 11a.m.

XIII. Meeting adjourned, 12:45 p.m. by President Barb Farr.