

Waterbury Historical Society

Board of Directors Meeting, June 21, 2019

11:00 SAL Room, Waterbury Library

Present: Barb Farr, Jan Gendreau, Steve Van Esen, Jim Walton, Betty Jones, Cheryl Casey, Anne Imhoff, Grace Sweet, Paul and Jane Willard and guest, Laura Parette Copies to: Jack Carter and Cindy Parks

- New Book Committee** presentation by Laura Parette, Steve Van Esen and Jane Willard. Laura is a graphic designer, Steve is a Waterbury businessman and consummate wordsmith, Jane is on the Board of Directors of the Historical Society. The thought is to publish a book (or books) spanning 2000 to 2025.

The **Mission Statement:** Waterbury Historical Society collects, researches, documents, preserves and exhibits artifacts related to the history of Waterbury, Vt. to help others gain a deeper appreciation, education and inspiration that touches on our past.

Several books have been published previously: the Lewis book is on-line and has an added index, the Blue book covers the years from 1915-1991, Waterbury Bridges from 1991-2000 and When the River Rose, about Tropical Storm Irene written by David Goodman and funded by CLIF.

A major goal is for any publication to break even financially.

Laura Parette and Anne Imhoff developed a **Survey Monkey** to ask the community what their preferences might be. Seventy people responded. The majority prefer a pictorial book. Most seem to gather info on-line.

Recommendations: Do create a history book, consider printing both hard and soft covers. Begin gathering stories in 2020, Hope to be completed by 2025 (or sooner), Material will also be on Past Perfect (Sandy Hough does data entry).

Questions, Comments: Jim Walton related that 35 years ago in a county in N.C. people were asked to share family histories – an unedited book was made from the stories, photos included. Gordon Miller (of the Waterbury Record) has **photos** from 2000 on. Anne Imhoff has photos from **Exit Ten**. Barb Farr states that the **Main Street rebuild** project is huge: perhaps a before and after of the water/sewer update after 100 years. Jan Gendreau asked about a **genealogical** component. Cheryl Casey suggests beginning with a **Table of Contents**, developing a **theme** or framework, criteria for admission or acceptance, # of words. Cheryl offered to help with developing a framework. There are 184 businesses in Waterbury: should there be a listing of businesses that have come and gone? How has our community been enhanced by your business? Should the community at large be invited to write? Is the book to be about businesses only? **Revitalizing Waterbury has info.**

Survey: Are you a member of WHS – 60% said no. 70% said they had never considered it. 50% said they knew about the quarterly programs, 40% said no. How do we reach people? Betty Jones puts posters around, posts on Front Porch Forum, sends notices to several newspapers, TV and radio stations. Cheryl thinks that Facebook is not well leveraged and that we need more **PR**. Jim suggested that perhaps smaller books could be made that cover five- year segments – that would change the focus. The group thanked Laura for sharing info from the survey.
- The **minutes** of the May 17, 2019 meeting were approved. Paul made the motion, Jim seconded.
- Treasurer's** report: Paul Willard – approved
- Membership:** Paul Willard – five or six have not renewed and their names will be removed from the roles. A fair number of people access the website.
- NQID** – Not Quite Independence Day – will be Saturday, June 29. The parade begins at 4:00, participants need to gather 3:00ish behind the State Office Complex. Jan Gendreau and Jack Carter have decorated the little wagon – need an ATV to pull it (Chuck Kletecka's ATV is out of commission). Jan and Barb will carry the banner. Cheryl and Anne will be clowns. Jack? The theme is "The Circus is Coming to Town".
- Outreach Education Committee:** Jane Willard is the chair, Grace Sweet, the Secretary. They will meet in August to discuss school connections. The Senior Center is looking for programs once a month at Wednesday noon meals. We have suggestions for programs.

7. **Program Committee:** Betty Jones – **Wednesday, July 17** The **Yankee Brass Band** will perform at Thatcher Brook Elementary School at 7 p.m. – no charge from the school. The cost for the band is \$800 – free will offering. The advertising curtain (from the Grange) will be unrolled. The school will supply a P.A. system. Barb offered to make a program for the event but Betty or committee member need to get her information. It was suggested that Betty contact ORCA (Onion River Community Access) for advertising in addition to her other contacts.
Wednesday, July 31: Picnic meeting at 6:00 at the Hope Davey Park in Waterbury Center. The program is **Lamoille River Swingers**. Bring chairs and food. Ben and Jerry's has donated ice cream. A tent from the fire station will be set up. Mike Woodard will bring five 4x8 sheets of plywood for a dance floor.
Wednesday, October 23: Waterbury Cemeteries
8. There is a video of the art on the **railroad bridge**: perhaps we could have a showing in September with Revitalizing Waterbury – Yes.
9. **Newsletter:** Cheryl Casey – the newsletter will be out in early July – plenty of content.
10. **Archivist:** Paul Willard has written a thank you to Tracy Hearther for her work. Barbara Farr sent an e-mail with thanks. Items keep coming – what to do with them? **Need an office manager:** Leanne Viens has expressed an interest in working for 4 or 5 hours a week. A job description needs to be formulated. Need a person to accept donations, to record and file items, to write thank you notes and to respond to e-mails and perhaps provide assistance to people looking for information. Paul and Barb will work on a job description.
Past Perfect continually needs to be updated. Several (Barb, Skip Flanders and Joanna Caswell) have been trained on Past Perfect. Their expertise needs to be utilized.
11. **Ghost Walk:** A hearty thank you to Jan Gendreau for a very well-organized event at the Maple Street Cemetery: those remembered: George E. Woodard Sr., Rex Walter Morse, Herbert G. Hunt and Cornelius C. Fisher.
12. A World War II uniform was returned to family members.
13. EFUD (**Edward Farrar** area is to be included in a survey for the historic district of downtown Waterbury.)
14. **Friday, July 19 board meeting** at 11:00 at the Bryan Farm on Maple Street in the Center. The Program Committee and the Outreach Education Committee are invited to join the board for this event. Connie and Mark Tuft will be our hosts. Bring your own lunch and a chair.
15. September 20th meeting: Barb will be away. Jim Walton will lead the meeting.