

# Waterbury Historical Society Board Meeting via zoom

January 20, 2021 6:30 p.m.

**Present:** Cheryl Casey, Paul and Jane Willard, Jim Walton, Jan Gendreau, Bill Woodruff, Anne Imhoff, Betty Jones and Grace Sweet Copy to Jack Carter

**Minutes** of Nov. 20, 2020: Correction – Cheryl is moving files of the Waterbury Record (2009-20114) from CDs at the Stowe Reporter onto an external hard drive that Waterbury Historical Society owns. The collection will eventually be put on Past Perfect. Paul moved to accept and Jan seconded.

**Membership:** Paul – 225 – 4 gone and 5 gained

**Treasurer:** Paul – Checking: \$42,975.41, Capitol campaign: \$30,766.76 and T. Rowe Price: \$104,871.56 for a total of \$178,613.73. The annual appeal brought in \$14,130 including \$2500 from Elaine Beal and \$7000 from Karen Steele. Some money from the checking account will be moved to the T. Rowe Price mutual fund. \$1125 came in for memberships.

The town budgets \$8700 for the Historical Society. This amount pays Sandy Hough's salary, for the storage units and for supplies. The town pays FICA for Sandy and Leanne Viens. Leanne's salary is funded by us, so we reimburse the town. We need to have a way to keep track of Leanne's hours.

Kenley and Elizabeth Squier pledged \$35,000 in 2014. They have paid \$5000 per year for a total of \$30,000. The last \$5000 has not come. Jim moved to waive the remainder, Jan seconded, due to Kenley's bout with COVID and the drastic drop in ads for WDEV, also due to COVID.

Discussion ensued re: naming events or rooms for Squier and Steele. The community room in the town office building is named in honor of the Steeles and there is a space in the History Museum named for Kenley Squier, so maybe an event or award. Discussion will continue.

**New Book** of Waterbury History from 2000-2020: Jane Willard – There have been 80 submissions so far. The publisher will allow only 50 photos and 72,000 words, so not every submission can be used. Cindy Parks has resigned and Steve van Esen is recuperating from a broken leg at Woodridge. Jane and Laura Parette are going through the painful process of determining which submissions will be included. Those that will not be will go into Past Perfect. Jack Carter and Anne Imhoff are the fact checkers. The pre-editors are Jan Gendreau and Brian Lindner. Carolyn Fox is the copy editor. They are using Google Docs thanks to Cheryl Casey's tutelage. A position for a production assistant/file manager has been advertised. Four applications have been received for the 8-10 hour weekly contracted position. The interview team is Cheryl, Laura and Jane. WHS earmarked \$10,000 for book related expenses. \$8000 is left to fund the position. Jim made the motion that if that is not enough, the Society will fund the difference. Paul seconded. Approved. Cheryl will write the preface incorporating Steve's ideas. Jack is doing a timeline. March 1 will be the start date for the paid position. The book will sell for \$22 to \$23, \$11 will come to WHS, hoping to break even.

**Outreach Education:** Jane Willard – Before COVID the group had made an in-person connection with the Senior Center ending in March 2020. Over the holidays small items were sent to recipients of Meals on Wheels under Margo Metayer's leadership. Now the group will send historical articles to about 75 folks twice monthly. Jane sent info about Chris Palermo upon his retirement. Articles are being printed at Pack'nSend Plus for 7 cents a copy. A teacher at Crossett Brook is wanting info on the Waterbury Dam.

**Program:** Betty Jones – Howard Coffin is waiting in the wings. April? July picnic at Bryan's? Betty hopes to get Skip Flanders to join our next Board meeting.

Jan notes that the Vermont Historical Society is using social media to connect with its audience.

Discussion ensued: Should we raffle off duplicate items or auction them or sell them in a lawn sale or use them as prizes for some kind of contest? Whenever, whatever Anne will make posters.

Should we initiate a pandemic partnership with Waterbury, CT? They helped us in recuperating from the 1927 flood. We get inquiries from time to time, mistaking us and Waterbury, CT.

**Curator:** Jack Carter (absent) – We were donated a slide projector by John Zimmerman. Grace will write a thank you note. The Accession/Deaccession Committee last met in late November. They consolidated some items for Deaccession. Eighty of Kevin Eurich's books were given to Seniors who receive Meals on Wheels. The Waterbury Historical Society wrote a letter of support for the Stowe Street Ally Project Grant application for \$20,000. Do we have a current Waterbury Historical Society letterhead?

Anne would like WHS to write a letter of support for a PAC (Public Art Committee) grant for a Phoenix Rising mural to be painted on the ally wall next to Axel's on Stowe Street in commemoration of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Tropical Storm Irene. The group agreed to write a letter of support.

**Newsletter:** Cheryl Casey has a number of possible articles in mind and can use the Past Perfect archives. The deadline is mid-February.

**New Business:** Ghost Walk? In person or live stream?

Tenth anniversary of Tropical Storm Irene. Revitalizing Waterbury and Barb Farr are working on a remembrance to happen in August. Cheryl suggested that 2 – 3 students from her Champlain Senior Class are available to work on a mini-documentary project about how Waterbury rebuilt. She needs someone to be the contact person of record. Several names were given.

Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Next meeting to be determined.