

Waterbury Historical Society Board ZOOM Meeting

April 21, 2021

Present: President – Cheryl Casey, Paul and Jane Willard, Jan Gendreau, Jack Carter, Betty Jones, Jim Walton, Bill Woodruff and Grace Sweet Copies to Anne Imhoff and Carla Lawrence

Minutes of March 17, 2021 Moved by Paul Willard, seconded by Bill Woodruff. Approved with this correction: Elaine Billado is incorrect – correct is Elana Billodeau.

Treasurer's Report: Paul Willard – Checking account: \$40,951.96, T. Rowe Price: \$111,000.00 and the Capital Campaign: \$30,723.82 for a total of \$180,723.82. Expenses: \$780 for Past Perfect Online, Newsletter printing: \$175, Newsletter postage: \$110, Elena Billodeau: \$110, Vermont Historical Membership renewal: \$50 and storage: \$170. The storage charge is assessed monthly, but is reimbursed by the town. Paul has filed the IRS statement. **Membership:** 227 We have email addresses for 115 members.

New Book: Jane Willard – good progress. The fact checking, editing and proof reading is nearly completed. Elena Billodeau is acting as the production assistant – meeting every Tuesday for an hour. It was determined that children's voices were missing, so, kids were asked to write about their experiences with COVID-19. There were 30 submissions – can use three in the book. Some may go in the summer and fall newsletters. Next big task: to choose 50 photos out of 200. Laura Parette will work with Gordon Miller on the photos. There will be a color cover. The title: Waterbury, Vermont: A Brave Little Town's Stories of Resilience, Growth and Community in the 21st Century. The aim is to have it completed by the first week of June – ahead of schedule. The hope is to have it in hand for gift giving season.

Outreach and Education: Jane Willard – two history related flyers have been distributed monthly to the 72 recipients of Meals on Wheels. April's flyers, put together by Grace and Tom Sweet, were on the Minott-Moulton home in Waterbury Center and the Wheeler-Sweet farm on Loomis Hill.

Dick Alyward has given items to WHS related to his step father, Don Fields, and the Pony Boys. The thought is to present a program on Don Fields to the Seniors at the Senior Center in late summer.

Jesse McDougal of Loomis Hill is looking for information on the old road up Loomis Hill including who owned the farms and about the school. It was suggested that he contact Bob Jones, Jack Carter and Tom Sweet.

Irene Commemoration Documentary update: Connor Greene and Ben Nicholas – the two have interviewed eleven parties including Gary Dillon, Bill Shepeluk and the Ayers family resulting in a 25-minute video. The task is to edit it to a 15-minute film and incorporate the photos. They will give us a full copy for our archives. The completed video will be sent to Cheryl on google drive.

Program: Betty Jones – Betty has received good feedback re: to the article written by Cheryl Casey and facilitated by Betty Jones about Florilla Ames on the occasion of her 110th birthday. Howard Coffin is all set for the October meeting.

The July potluck picnic is set for Wednesday, July 7 at 1 p.m. at the Bryan home on Maple Street. Discussion followed re: the possibility of a virtual tour and/or interview of Mark and Connie (Bryan) Tuft to possibly be shown on the large inflatable screen that the town owns. We have security concerns re: the house and contents. The fire department has a tent if needed. Betty tells us that the Bryan's have records of the Seminary. Do we have copies or can duplicates be made?

Other thoughts: Norwich has done a virtual tour of their town and Colchester has made a brochure for a driving tour of historical landmarks and six cemeteries.

August 28: Commemoration of Tropical Storm Irene. Jack Carter is to do a walking tour of downtown. A calendar of events is being created by Barbara Farr and Karen Nevin. Skip Flanders will do a tour of the State Complex. Where and when will the video be aired?

Cemetery (Ghost) Walk: Jan Gendreau – Monday, May 31 at 11 at Hope Cemetery.

The Legion will do a remembrance ceremony, Paul Willard will be the emcee. Skip Flanders will speak about the Bryant family – maybe not Celia who is buried in Ohio. Bill Woodruff will speak about Charles Daggs who came here from the south and Cheryl Casey will present Elizabeth Colley, former headmistress of the Waterbury Center Seminary. Paul will be the photographer – need a videographer.

Publicity? Poster – no. WDEV, FaceBook, Front Porch and Seniors through Meals on Wheels are more certain. Presently about half of the WHS members are reachable through email, so the only sure contact is through the quarterly newsletter. Need to encourage more members to share email contacts.

Curator: Jack Carter – Brian Lindner relates that the Ayers family wishes to donate to WHS a portion of a 75-foot ski tow rope from the last ski hill in Waterbury. The area was on Sunset Hill - by the pool up toward the reservoir before the interstate was constructed. The consensus was that we would be pleased to accept ten feet. The other possible recipients are the ski museum in Stowe and the VT Historical Society.

Karen Nevin and Laura Parette of Revitalizing Waterbury have photos of the restoration of the **Waterbury railroad station** and records to be archived and also the **Stinson-Graves building**. All should be digitized.

Pam Potter who is related to Harry Cutting's wife has photos to donate of the Smith and Cutting family. Leann Viens and Sandy Hough are working in the WHS office.

Photos have been sent from the Bridport Historical Society of Waterbury folks.

There is a video of the 50th anniversary of the 1927 flood. Keith Wallace and others are featured.

Newsletter: Cheryl Casey – Social media report - 973 separate individuals have viewed posts over the last month. Four posts (photos) were made in the last month – a flood (not 1927), Stanley Chase who was president of the local bank, a letter to Dr. Janes and a picture of the Vermont State Hospital workshop in the 1930's with folks caning chairs. Page likes and page followers are increasing – thirteen new likes and 38 new followers for a total of 398 likes and over 400 followers. Many of the photos come from Past Perfect. Announcements for May will include COVID updates, archival images/artifacts, history read of the month and history wisdom.

Thoughts? Is there a way to provide a computer for the Senior Center with historical photos and/or dialog? Would need parameters and security. Discussion ensued – no decision.

Summer newsletter: an article about Karen Steele – who will write it?

Calvin Dow will likely have an article.

Charlotte Strasser has written an item about Don Fields and the Pony Boys.

Grace and Tom Sweet have submitted an article about the Wheeler/Sweet Farm on Loomis Hill.

Some of the student submissions re: COVID will be printed.

Margo Metayer has written a short bio of Horace Fales.

A short bit about the renaming of the elementary school removing Thatcher Partridge's name.

Steve van Esen will be home on Monday, April 26 from a long recuperation at Woodridge following a fall.

Paul made a motion to adjourn at 8:45 and Bill seconded.

Next meeting: Wednesday, May 19 at 6:30 either on ZOOM or at the Steele Community Room.

Notes by Grace Sweet