

Waterbury Historical Society Board Meeting

February 15, 2023 via ZOOM

Present: President – Cheryl Casey, Joe Camaratta, Jill Chase, Jan Gendreau, Jane Willard, Mike Maloney, Laura Parette, Skip Flanders, Bill Woodruff, Anne Imhoff and Grace Sweet

The **minutes** of January 18 submitted by Jill Chase were approved: Motion made by Anne and 2nd by Joe.

Finances: Joe – T. Rowe Price is recovering from its downturn.

There were 104 responses to the Annual Appeal – 40% of membership bringing in \$1260 and \$560 in dues.

Presently 241 members.

Action needed: Can we accept payments electronically? Options for non-profit money transactions include Beyond Donor Box and Forward. Venmo, Pay Pal and Square do not fit well with a non-profit. **Joe** will investigate and report back at the March meeting.

Program: Skip reports that the program about Alice Meaker will be held in the Steele Room on Wednesday, April 26 at 7:00. **Action: Skip will send info re: programs to Laura for the newsletter.**

The July program will be about the Waterbury Fire Department featuring the Seth Warner pumper, the first one in Waterbury. The program will be at the Rusty Parker Park either on a Wednesday or a Saturday in late July.

Skip is considering leading a walking tour of the Hope Cemetery in Waterbury in the summer, perhaps in coordination with the Library.

Skip has been in touch with Linda Radtke who has read a book about the Green Mountain Cemetery in Montpelier written by historian Paul Heller. As a result of that conversation the committee is considering contacting Paul Heller with a proposal to present a program on the Green Mountain Cemetery. Joel Foster who was the water superintendent in Montpelier and who consulted with folks in Waterbury re: Waterbury's water system is buried in the Green Mountain Cemetery. This would be a power point or slide program in the Steele Room at date to be announced.

Another thought: the McCain Engineering building in Waterbury was designed by George Guernsey who designed many buildings in Vermont in the late 1800's.

Outreach: Jane reports that the program re: Wilson "Snowflake" Bentley will be presented for Seniors at the Senior Center on Friday, February 17, 2023. Wyatt O'Brien will speak about ice crystals and Margo Sayah will give a short biography of Bentley. *(The program was canceled due to weather.)*

Jane is suggesting using the Steele Room for hanging selected objects to be changed quarterly. The group will consult with the select board for permission. **Action by Anne** to ask if perhaps George Woodard's photos of his family could be the first display.

Old Business: Security cameras: **Action needed by Bill and Mike** – are they functioning? This has been a concern for over a year.

Collections – A/D: The items on the attached list may be deaccessioned. **Bill made the motion, Jill 2nd. Approved.**

Collections Manager: Mike Maloney – The fictional book written about a patient at the Waterbury Hospital which Dr. Debra Black has does not seem relevant. Patricia Kennedy has some material re: patients at the state hospital.

Is the model of the ship, Santa Maria, stolen art?

What about the human skull? Mike suggested that the UVM anthropology department can help us determine if it is Native American. **Action for Mike – what can UVM do for us?**

There are 450 items on the list that that the A/D committee has been inventorying. These items have not been accessed.

Mike has generated a document for Sandy Hough to refer to for consistency in entering items into Past Perfect. Mike recommends that he and Sandy be the only ones to enter items presently. Cataloging is complex work. More time is needed to formalize the process for cataloging entries. Mike's goal is to create a collections operations binder. He will send the SOP to board members to be sure lay folks can understand the particulars. Joe has had some experience with operating procedures and is willing to give feedback. **Action – Mike and Joe**

Board members are encouraged to visit the History Center on any Wednesday from 2 to 4 to see what transpires.

Newsletter: Laura Parette – The next newsletter will have 8 pages. Jill, Anne, and Cheryl will proofread. Cheryl is posting items on social media at least once a month.

The Historical Society's Bocce ball team, the Hysterical Historians lost in the semifinals during Waterbury's Winterfest.

Ghost Walk: Jan Gendreau – the seventeenth year! The event will be on May 29 at 11:00 at the Holy Cross in Duxbury featuring stories of immigrants. The American Legion Post #59 will perform their usual Memorial Day ceremonies. Jeswin Antony, a student, will prepare and present remarks.

New Business: We have an opportunity to participate in a co-sponsorship with Bridgeside Books and the Library to collaborate on a program called Yours Truly led by James Hagerty, an obituary writer, on telling our personal stories. More details to come.

Action: Mike will send a form to board members re: borrowing, using items. He will generate a running list of inquiries.

Volunteers could serve on committees, work on the newsletter, serve on the nominating committee, inventory collections, proofread, curate, update exhibits for events, outreach education, directors, officers. **Action by Cheryl** Volunteers – what is needed: job descriptions, recruitment, training, and support/nurturing.

There is no description of the A/D function in the bylaws – A/D needs to be made a standing committee.

Cheryl questioned the practice of publishing monetary donors' names and amounts in the quarterly newsletter. **Action:** Laura will check with how Revitalizing Waterbury has been doing it and report back.

Are our dues too low? To be discussed later.

Strategic Planning – needs to be discussed at a time separate from the regular meeting.

Adjournment: Anne moved to adjourn and Jill seconded at 6:30.

Next meeting: March 15, 2023, 4:30 to 6:30 in the Steele Community Room

Notes by Grace Sweet