

Waterbury Historical Society Board Meeting

March 15, 2023 at 4:30 in the Steele Room

Present: Cheryl Casey, Jane Willard, Bill Woodruff, Skip Flanders, Mike Maloney, Jill Chase and Grace Sweet
Joining on ZOOM were Joe Camaratta, Laura Parette and Anne Imhoff

Minutes of the Feb. 15th meeting. Jill moved to approve. Bill seconded. Approved with no corrections.

Electronic payment platform: Joe has looked at five options to determine what will meet our needs. He will narrow it to two. **Action needed by the board members:** He asks the board members to look at the ten selection criteria to see if any changes or additions should be made. See his notes which he emailed to board members. Will have more info in April.

Skull – legal obligations and next steps: Cheryl and Mike - WHS has a skull in its collection. We need to do due diligence to determine if it is a Native American skull or not. Mike contacted the Office of the Secretary of the Interior and received a paper pertaining to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Regulations to do with Human Remains. The advice was that we can ignore it and store it away. If will wish to pursue its identity we also need find any other Native American artifacts in our possession and then determine what to do. In any event someone needs to read all of Dr. Janes papers to see if he mentions the skull. Could it be from a Civil War soldier? The assumption is that it was part of Dr. Janes collection. Could an anthropologist help us? Maybe, maybe not.

Priority one: Steve Martin is digitizing Dr. Janes' 1300 patient bed cards.

Priority two: Digitize Dr. Janes' papers.

Security Cameras: Bill – Two are not working and need to be replaced. We think they are about \$210 each plus installation. Laura made a motion to purchase them from Safe Tech. Jill 2nd. Approved not to exceed \$1000.

Action by Bill – he will contact Safe Tech.

Informational one-sheets: Action needed by Cheryl – not yet printed – where to place them? Maybe on the shelf by the round table in the History Center.

A/D Committee: Anne reports that they have finished going through three boxes that had not been touched. They have questions for Skip re: some of the items. Now they need to decide what to keep or not.

Priority #3 Some things that are on display have not been cataloged – i.e. Don Fields items. Kelly Sommer (a Volunteer) might be interested in working with Anne. A person inquired about becoming an intern, but did not follow up.

Collections Manager: Mike is working with Sandy Hough re: grammar and consistency in Past Perfect entries.

Mike has made a notebook with forms and procedures in re: to Past Perfect and the collections. He invites critiques and additions from the board members. Mike has been working on photos from Anne that were used in the weekly paper, Exit 10.

Jill asked if we need to purchase Past Perfect Support? Do we need it or should we pay for it? The experience has been that if a person needs help, someone at Past Perfect is available at no extra cost. So, no.

Past Perfect offers an Inventory Manager option. Maybe later.

Newsletter: Laura – the consensus is that Laura's first newsletter is spectacular. She plans to highlight one board member each quarter and asks us to be prepared with a photo.

Social Media: Cheryl – Events are being posted. There is a link to Waterbury Women on Social Media. There will be a display in Montpelier at the Vermont History Museum on Dr. Janes in early April.

Finance and Membership Report: Joe – **Action needed** – the changeover at T. Rowe Price from Paul Willard to Joe has been slow. Cheryl is working on it.

There have been 107 responses to the Annual Appeal out of a membership of 240.

A letter has been received from Harold Grout Jr. honoring Paul Willard for his many years of service to WHS. Anne asked if the dues should be raised – will consider the question in April.

Asa James (Jim) Walton, former board member has died. Jill took flowers to the family on the board's behalf.

Program: Skip – the next program will be Wednesday, April 26 at 7:00 in the Steele Room.

The topic will be the murder of Alice Meaker – the crime of the century.

Members of the Stowe Historical Society visited the History Center. They donated to WHS.

Stowe has one board meeting a year. Skip will present his power point program on the Electric Railroad to the Stowe Historical Society.

The July program will feature the Button and Blake hand pumper which belongs to the Waterbury Fire Department. It was purchased by Waterbury's Seth Warner fire company in 1859. The program will be at either the Rusty Parker Park or at the fire station.

Outreach Education Committee: Jane – We are waiting to hear from Wyatt O'Brien in re: to the use of the recreation van for Senior Citizen outings.

Jane has submitted a request to the Select Board and the Town Manager about exhibiting items in the WHS collection in the Steele Room. The idea would be to change displays quarterly keeping in mind the integrity of the walls. Tacks can be placed in the acoustic tile, however, we think it would be best to install some plain nearly invisible molding so that items could be hung. The first exhibit might be George Woodard's photos of his family – **Action by Anne.**

We have permission to store the Mitchell Siegal paintings as well as the Sarah Lee Terrat paintings which are presently on display.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20.

Notes respectfully submitted by Grace Sweet

Copy to Jan Gendreau and Karen Petrovic