

Waterbury Historical Society Board Meeting in the Steele Room

July 16, 2025, 4:32 pm

Present: Cheryl Casey, Joe Camaratta, Bill Woodruff, Anne Imhoff, Jill Chase, Margo Sayah, Stacey Askew, Laura Parette, Skip Flanders, Ryan Geary and Grace Sweet

Copies to: Margaret Moreland and Jan Gendreau

We welcomed Ryan Geary who has volunteered to be the exhibit manager.

Minutes of June 18: Jill made a motion to accept the minutes, Anne seconded. Approved with corrections.

Leadership reports: see attached papers.

Visitors to the History Center for the July 5th and 6th open house – 3 or 4 volunteers were on hand for each shift. There were two visitors each day.

Outreach at the Senior Center: a presentation is scheduled for the first Wednesday of each month at lunchtime. An item from the WHS collection is shared and a person from the Waterbury Library comes with appropriate books. All board members are invited to attend for a turkey dinner and socializing.

The **member development committee** is looking for a secretary.

Exit 10 newsletter will be scanned by Sandy Hough. The copies were brought out of storage. The consensus is that they need to be searchable. The size of the paper is problematic. Should the select board minutes which were edited and published by Anne Imhoff be included? The complete select board minutes are stored in the town records so from Exit 10 would be redundant.

Eastern Star's **Queen Esther's suitcase.** WHS has been storing the suitcase for safekeeping. Skip has been in touch with Sue Ocher and we are hoping that the Eastern Star folks will take the suitcase back.

Disposal options update: a rocking chair and another chair, a commode and a medicine cabinet have been deaccessioned, but the items are still here. Cheryl has taken photos of the items and shared them with Merrill's Auction House and will schedule a date with them for removal.

Mary Whitehill's baskets? There is no record of them being deaccessioned so Bill made a motion to deaccession them and Joe seconded the motion. Approved. Should we sell them as a collection or separately?

Program: Sunday, July 20 at 2:00 at St. Leo's Hall will be a talk on Rebuilding the Notre Dame Cathedral by Will Gusakov. He spent six months hewing and assembling oak timbers for new trusses for the cathedral. Should the WHS programs be recorded? Should programs be on ZOOM for accessibility? Pros and cons re: privacy and recompense to the presenter. Laura and Cheryl will contribute food for the program along with program committee members.

Annual Meeting: Sunday, Oct. 19 at 2:00 giving the audience time to make suggestions. The program would begin at 2:30. Amy Marshall has suggested a program about her Great-Uncle, Dan Marshall, who was a WWII vet and a professor. He made his home on Ruby Raymond Road in Waterbury Center.

Newsletter: Laura – the next newsletter will go out at the beginning of September.

Budget: Joe The miscellaneous category is over budget. Some items could be reassigned to other categories. A marketing category needs to be created.

Retractable Standup Banner: Anne made a motion to purchase said banner and Bill seconded. Cheryl will purchase.

Grace left just before 6 p.m. The following notes were taken by Jill Chase.

Cheryl went over the handout she gave us with the **proposal about organizing for the 250th anniversaries**. She stressed she wanted everyone to read it and make suggestions or corrections; she sent us a link to the document. She didn't go into detail about the second page, but mostly wanted our consent to present it to the select board hoping they would embrace and support the idea. She went over the organizations who could/should be involved. We discussed the involvement of the schools, but she pointed out that the school district went beyond Waterbury alone. Perhaps working with teachers who live in Waterbury, they could liaison with the district to involve students.

The back page is the resolution she hopes the select board will sign.

A motion was made by Joe, seconded by Bill, for WHS to spearhead organizing the committee (Cheryl to take that on) and propose that the select board adopt this Vermont 250th Anniversary Resolution. Passed.

Before adjourning, I noted that Larry Frasier had gifted us with some important Waterbury papers and would be giving more. He is also excited about sharing his memories via recordings. Cheryl said she has a new microphone for just such an occasion and wanted to pursue this.

The meeting adjourned about 6:20.