

Newport Historical Society Board Meeting
May 13, 2013 – 6:00 PM
The NHS Museum – “The Nettleton House”

1. Call to order at 6:39 PM by President Baird. Members present: Cathryn Baird, Dottie Collins, Jackie Cote, Larry Cote, Dick Gassett, Jerry Hagebusch, Priscilla Hagebusch, Virginia Irwin, Rita James, Laura Kessler, Dean Stetson and Stan Sweeney.
2. Public Forum: Ann St. Martin Stout talked about the Greek exhibit that had been at the Library Arts Center. She brought the book that she published with photos from the exhibit and donated it to the Newport Historical Society.
3. Treasurer Jackie Cote reported on the “Accounting Summary” from 4.1.13 – 4.30.13 and the Nettleton House Account Fiscal Year Ending 9.30.13. Report was accepted unanimously and was placed on file.
4. The minutes from the April meeting were distributed, reviewed and approved.
5. Committee Reports:

A. Docent Training:

The schedule for the summer was discussed. Bidy noted that additional volunteers are needed to fill-in the schedule.

B. Fundraising:

Jackie Cote gave a report on behalf of the Fundraising Committee (please see attachment for full report).

C. Membership: 226 members

D. Museum Committee:

Larry Cote gave a report on behalf of the Museum Committee (please see attachment for full report).

Larry reported on the visit that the 5th grade class from Towle Elementary School made to the museum. The students “were very well behaved and seemed interested” in the exhibits and history of Newport.

President Baird suggested asking as a follow-up to the museum visit, to have the teachers give their students writing prompt for an essay, regarding their time at the museum. It was thought that if this were made as a “contest,” that each participant would receive a certificate for participating and one or parts of the essays could be printed in the July newsletter. The grand prize winner could be given a copy of the 250th book. A motion was made and seconded to move forward with this idea. Motion passed unanimously.

E. **Public Relations and Marketing:**

Priscilla presented the idea of purchasing the Sarah Josepha Hale book, "Early American Cookery – The Good Housekeeper," (1841) from the Dover Publishing Company, to sell this fall. A motion was made and seconded to purchase ten books at \$6.26. Motion passed unanimously. (These books will be sold for \$10.00.)

Dean has spoken with Ron Garceau about advertising. Priscilla is getting press releases and calendar items out to various papers, websites and other advertising venues.

Christina has redesigned the fact sheet for the museum.

6. Old Business:

- A. **Smith Clock Donation:** Jackie spoke with Brent Stocker, who would like to build a template for the clock to see if it will fit in its designated space.
- B. **Farmers' Market:** The NHS will be selling items at the Farmers' Market, which will be held Fridays (beginning May 31st) from 3:00 – 6:00 PM. A schedule for volunteers to sign-up to work this event will be available at the June meeting.
- C. **Roof Estimates:** Larry gave a report on the six quotes that he had been given for reroofing the Nettleton House. Christina will be given the information to look over before the next meeting, so that the bids can be discussed in greater detail.
- D. **Badges:** Bidy reported that the prison will be making these. She is waiting for prices.
- E. **"Brainstorming List":** President Baird distributed the list that was generated at the pot luck meeting that was held at her house.
- F. **May 15th Business After Hours:** The NHS will be hosting the Business After Hours on May 15th. The Newport Chamber of Commerce will provide nametags for those present. Jackie and Larry have gathered items for the gift basket, which will be wrapped by the horticulture class at the Sugar River Valley Technical Center.

7. New Business

- A. **Historical tapes:** It was discussed to get copies of historical tapes from NCTV.

- B. **Donations:** David and Ellen (Edgell) Simmons will be bringing more items in on May 14th to donate to the NHS.
- C. **Review notes:** Members are asked to review the notes that President Baird distributed, that were taken at the pot luck meeting in May and are to be prepared to discuss them.
8. The next meeting will be held on Monday, June 10th at 6:30 PM at the Nettleton House/NHS.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Kessler
Secretary