

Newport Historical Society Monthly Board Meeting
January 9, 2016
The Nettleton House

1. **Call to Order** by President Cathryn Baird at 6:30 p.m.
2. **Members present:** Cathryn Baird, Jackie Cote, Larry Cote, Dick Gassett, Jerry Hagebusch, Priscilla Hagebusch, Jayna Hooper, Biddy Irwin, Rita James, Laura Kessler, Ann Stout.
3. **Public Forum:** No public participation.
4. **Minutes** of the December 9, 2015 board meeting were approved unanimously.
5. **The Treasurer's Report** was shared by Jackie Cote, with the following account summaries reviewed in detail:
 - i. Accounting Summary of 12/1/15 – 12/31/15
 - ii. Main Operating Account, Fiscal Year ending 9/30/16
 - iii. Nettleton House Account, FY ending 9/30/16
 - iv. NHS Budget Comparison Operating Account – Income, 10/1/15 – 9/30/16
 - v. NHS Budget Comp. Operating Acct. – Expenses, 10/1/15 – 9/30/16
 - vi. NHS Budget Comp. Nettleton Acct. – Income, 10/1/15 – 9/30/16
 - vii. NHS Budget Comp. Nettleton Acct. – Expenses, 10/1-15 – 9/30/16

The higher than usual phone bill reflects two payments made in the same month (Oct. and Nov.)

Jackie reported that we have more Jesse Scott Books and the NHS will get the sales profit from the last ten.

The NHS has 197 paid members. 76 people have not renewed. Cathryn is working on a reminder letter.

Dick Gassett made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Ann Stout. Approved unanimously.

Discussion ensued concerning the NHS's **Endowment**. Cathryn and Jackie spoke to Scott McGuire of Sugar River Savings Bank. If the NHS pursues the route of setting up an "endowment" account, the NHS will be subject to the duties of state reports, with associated yearly reporting fees, and tax reporting. It is believed that an "endowment fund" will carry with it tax consequences. Further, there would be legal fees, as the NHS would need to hire an attorney (Bruce Jasper) to set up the legal paperwork for an endowment.

Therefore, Scott recommends that the endowment funds be placed in bonds and/or stocks: an investment account. Triple B+ bonds or higher yield a 3-4.87% return over a 2- to 5-year term. Blue chip stocks yield a 2.5% dividend.

A proposal was put forth to pursue an **investment account**, with no contingencies and restrictions. If, for some reason, the NHS needs to draw on that money, funds could be available within three days. Further, the bank would be able to take care of all transaction reports, for a 1% fee.

Because of the current and on-going volatility in the stock market, Dick recommended that NHS investments be placed in bonds rather than stocks. The NHS will further examine what percentage of its total funds it will keep in its CD, checking account, stocks and bonds, and a contingency fund.

6. **The Fundraising Report** was given by Jackie Cote.

Additional **queen ornaments** have been received. Eight were broken, but the NHS has been reimbursed through its insurance claim.

The NHS will receive a check from the Library Arts Center for the Queen ornaments that were sold at the LAC's Gallery of Gifts.

NHS **holiday sales** were up significantly, attributed in part to the gift catalog that was put together and released in November. We will pursue another gift catalog for the spring: a four-pager featuring everything that the NHS has for sale. This gift catalog should also be featured on the NHS website, allowing site visitors to email the NHS with their requests.

Three new NHS **postcards** are in production, featuring the Corbin bridge and the gazebo. Skating on the common, Pollards Mills, a view of the Opera House by Jon Ryba, as well as some fall-themed images by Venita Nudd will hopefully be added once approval from the respective photographers is obtained. In addition to making individual postcards available for sale, the NHS will put together a "postcard packet" for sale.

A **Winter Carnival booklet** is being put together, to be printed by New London Copy Center. The booklet will feature the extensive history of the Carnival that Sharon Christie researched and published in the 1996 Town Report. A "teaser" for this booklet will be placed in the upcoming January NHS newsletter.

Louise Crone Russell (mother of Kurt Russell, wife of Bing Russell) is the queen featured on the queen ornament, based on a photo of the 1945 carnival pageant. She has received a photo of the ornament, and she is so excited to be honored in such a way by her hometown. Her daughter Jamie has reported that, after so many years of being known as "Kurt's mother" or "Bing's wife," Louise feels incredibly moved to be appreciated and honored in her own right.

Stickers with the 100th Winter Carnival theme have been ordered and received FOR FREE, courtesy of Paint N' Place. These stickers will be applied to the cowbells left over from the 250th celebration, and we can sell extras for \$.50/each to anyone interested.

7. **The Museum Director's Report** was shared by Larry Cote.

The Museum hosted 13 visitors (perhaps more who did not sign the guest book) since Dec. 9th – a slow month due to the holidays. No purchases were made through the month of December, but the museum did receive six (6) donations of Newport artifacts. Inventory of all fundraising products is currently underway.

The Vermont Life Safety (VLS) quote given in July for an **alarm system** for the NHS Museum still stands. A basic VLS alarm system installed with the Newport PD monitoring the system is priced at \$1,354.92. The smoke detector and low temperature unit is priced at \$541.93. The NHS board agreed to Larry's recommendation to have VLS install both for a cost of \$1,896.85. (Moved by Bidy; seconded by Laura; the motion was approved unanimously.)

The NHS Board agreed with Larry's suggestion to sponsor an **ad** for \$50 for the Eagle Times' Winter Carnival insert. We will sponsor the year 1945, the year the Queen ornament image is from. (Moved by Pris; seconded by Laura; the motion was approved unanimously.)

Goodrich has given the NHS a quote for replacing the **water heater**: \$789 for a 40 gal. electric water heater installed; \$506 for a 6 gal. electric water heater, which is enough water for washing hands – the extent of typical museum use. An instant-on water heater, without installation and additional electrical equipment, would cost \$594.00. A fee of \$100-\$300 was quoted for the necessary electrical work associated with an instant-on water heater.

Therefore, the NHS board agreed to select a 6-gal. electrical heater. Larry will pursue this recommendation with Goodrich. (Moved by Dick; seconded by Jerry; motion unanimously approved.)

A **\$500 donation** to the NHS Museum was received by Tom Shadis. Larry recommended that the money be used to purchase rolling racks from Home Depot for the new upstairs storage area. Larry would like to purchase 3, for \$175/ea, at a cost of \$525. A letter will be drafted by Larry and Jackie to the manager of Home Depot asking for assistance with these wire racks. (Biddy moved; Jerry seconded; approved unanimously.)

Docents for the museum's open hours on Sundays (10 a.m. – 2 p.m.) are desperately needed. Training will be provided, and the experience is very enjoyable!

8. **Old Business:**

Plans for the NHS's involvement in the Winter Carnival **parade** were discussed. Biddy can get a truck and driver. Float participants will don old sporting attire to go along with the theme: "Sports Through the Ages." Along with a printed banner carrying the theme, the float will feature old skis, snowshoes, metal runner sleds, etc.

An event honoring the late **Billy B. Van** was discussed, to take place in July or August. The NHS will seek partnership with the Opera House association for projection screen and lighting for the showing of some of Van's old silent films. Paul Rheingold has movies, 10-12 minutes each, that he would like to have shown at this honorary event. Perhaps a function honoring Van could also be held at his old dairy barn on Spring Street? Might the Sunapee Historical Society like to be involved, by virtue of Van's activities in Georges Mills? Might the New London Barn Playhouse like to take part?

Cathryn has spoken to Becky Rylander of the Sunapee Historical Society and offered a good word on behalf of the SHS in their active interest in the old Abbott Library building, which the SHS would like to convert into their museum space. The SHS has been inspired by what the NHS has done at the Nettleton House.

9. **New Business:** None.

10. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jayna H. Hooper, Secretary