

**Newport Historical Society
Board Meeting, August 14, 2017
Nettleton House Museum, 6:30 pm**

Vice-President Jerry Hagebusch called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

Board Members Present: Jerry Hagebusch, Jackie Cote, Larry Cote, Dean Stetson, Rita James, Laura Kessler, Pris Hagebusch, Stan Sweeney, Arnie Hebert & Dr. Arthur Walsh

Absent: Jayna Hooper, Cathryn Baird

Public Forum:

There were no comments from the public at this meeting.

Minutes Approval:

Jackie highlighted corrections to the previous minutes of July that the Mansion Book was NOT on sale- just the streets book. With that correction noted, the Minutes to the 10- July 2017 meeting were moved by Jackie to be accepted. Seconded by Pris, and unanimously approved by the board.

Treasurer's Report

The "Hope Book Sales are HOT! 67 Copies sold so far and 30 more have been ordered from the printers. Jackie commented that Sales are a bit behind from previous years but the Apple Pie Crafts Fair and Farmers Market events will be kicking in soon which tend to generate high volume sales. Major renovations have been completed and paid for which include the granite wall toppers and new interior lighting.

Financials were presented by Jackie Cote. Detailed copies were distributed, reviewed and discussed including:

- Newport Historical Society Accounting Summary for 1-July through 31-July 2017
- Main Operating Account FY ending 30-Sept-2017
- Nettleton House Account FY ending 30-Sept-2017
- NHS Budget Comparison Operating Acct. 1-Oct-2017 to 30-Sept-2017
- NHS Budget Comparison Nettleton House 1-Oct-2017 to 30-Sept-2017
- Farmers Market/ Apple Pie Fair/Chamber Day Sales and conditions 2012-2017

A Motion to Approve the Treasurers Report was made by Arnie Hebert, 2nd by Dr. Walsh. Approval by The Board was unanimous.

Museum Report:

The Museum Report was presented by Museum Director, Larry Cote– Details in Monthly report. Highlights include:

- 39 visitors signed the register during the month of July.
- A Kenneth Andler painting from EBAY was purchased by the NHS.
- 4 individuals donated artifacts during July – Details in Monthly report

Fundraising Report was presented by Jackie Cote.

- Joan Dodge Ornaments corrected and returned to NHS.
- Ann Stout is willing to continue working with the printers on producing Post Cards **that she already has on file. Pris will take care of any new postcard images.**
- 13 Farmers Markets attended to date – Sales are picking up as the season progresses.
- BB Van Book
 - Books sold at the July 12th event in Sunapee.
 - 5 Copies of the BB Van Book were sold to SHS at our cost but they have to sell at the same price as NHS (\$15).
 - Jackie will bring copies to the Cheshire Historical Society event on 23 August for sale.
- Jackie showed a new Corbin Covered Bridge Pillow (\$29) and Handbag (\$20) available.

Membership Report:

- Our Membership remains strong and active with 249 members.
- Membership Drive starts in mid- September focusing on October.
- Jackie will be contacting Town Businesses for \$25 /Gift Certificates

Old Business:

- **CORBIN COVERED BRIDGE EVENT**
 - **REMINDER: ****20-September 6:00 Pot Luck at the Nettleton House ****To discuss The Corbin Bridge Fund Raising 25 year Celebration in 2019.**
 - Mary Schissel and Gerri Black are planning to attend; other original organizers are willing to support the event planning.
 - Jackie to solicit support from local businesses similar to the 250th book as it is a community event.
- Discussion to clarify that the motion to sell 8 each of the retired ornaments are to be at \$25/Ea.
 - A Motion to approve the sale of the quantity and price stated was made by Pris, 2nd by Stan. Approval by The Board was unanimous.
- The Museum to retain **1 of each retired ornament for archives and 2 of each retired ornaments for future sales.**
- Dean to highlight on Website the availability of the following ornaments:

- The Old Courthouse, Richards School, Richards Library, Sarah Hale, Mary's Lamb, Skating on the Common, Newport Opera House, 250th Celebration, South Church.
- Contents of the "Get Well" Gift Basket for Cathryn was shared among the group.
- **13 September 2017** - Business After Hours at the Nettleton House (Museum) is scheduled.
 - The group chose to hire the same caterers as before based on past success.

New Business:

Jackie proposed to increase the NHS Board of Directors from 12 to 15. Discussion among the group concurred that it would benefit the organization to have greater flexibility in the number of core members. There were comments on how each one of the members has a specialty and rather than stretching the individual interests to broaden the field participants with special interests in our local history through our membership. Further discussed was the benefit to leave the maximum number of board members open to provide options for the board without the need to change the Constitution again.

In order to change the number of our Board of Directors a notice needs to be issued to the current board by way of email by Dean and subsequently voted on at our next meeting with quorum.

At this the 14 August meeting, the interest in changing the verbiage of our Constitution was discussed to be changed as follows and to be voted at the next meeting on 11-September 2017:

FROM

Article 6. Board of Directors and Executive Committee Section 1. The Board of Directors shall consist of **no more than** twelve contributing members including the Executive Committee.

TO

Article 6. Board of Directors and Executive Committee Section 1. The Board of Directors shall consist of **a minimum of** twelve contributing members including the Executive Committee.

- Life Membership Status was brought up by Laura and if someone wanted to purchase or Donate a Life Membership that there currently was not an opportunity to do so on membership forms. In the past, Life Membership status was given by the board for generous monetary or significant contributions to The Newport Historical Society. After discussion among the group, an additional line on the membership form stating that a \$250 Donation or Gift, would be considered significant enough to entitle a member Life Membership Status. There was no definition whether this was granted per family or per member. A Motion to

approve this addition to the Membership Form was made by Dr. Walsh and seconded by Jackie. Approval by The Board was unanimous.

- Jayna has requested to relinquish her position of recording secretary but wishes to continue to remain on The Board.
- The DAR will be meeting on 11 November between 1PM and 3PM on the 3rd floor for their meeting. Laura will serve as participant and hostess representing the NHS overseeing the Nettleton House.
- Farmers Market Coverage is needed for 1 September and 15 September.
- July Humanities Event on the Poor House was attended by 51 people
- August Program with Steve Taylor on the 1 Room School House was attended by 38 people.
- 9 September 2017 – **VINTAGE** Auction at Senior Center. Donations Welcome.

Motion to Adjourn by Larry and seconded by All
The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Dean Stetson
Recording Secretary (in Jayna's absence)