

Newport Historical Society Board Meeting
July 8, 2013 – 6:30 PM
The NHS Museum – “The Nettleton House”

Call to order at 6:35 pm with President Baird presiding.

Board Members present: Cathryn Baird, President; Jerry Hagebusch, V.P.; Jackie Cote, Treasurer; Larry Cote, Museum Director; Rita James, Priscilla Hagebusch, Dean Stetson, Virginia Irwin, Stan Sweeney, Christina O’Brien

Members present: Maura Stetson, Dick Gassett, Scott McCoy, Laura McCoy

Public Forum: Laura McCoy complemented what we’ve done with our small town museum. She suggested that we might consider using some folding screens to add to our display functionality, giving us more room to display items that could be attached to the screens.

Treasurer, Jackie Cote, reported on the Accounting Summary for the period of June 1 to 30, 2013. Move to accept by Virginia Irwin, second by Priscilla Hagebusch. Vote was unanimous to place on file.

The June meeting secretary’s report was deferred until the August meeting as Secretary, Laura Kessler, has been away.

Fundraising Committee report in brief: The second half of the Tiger/Airport ornament order has been received, Parlin Field note cards are available at the airport and farmers market, tee shirts will be available upon receipt of the transfer graphics, sweatshirts will be offered in late August, continuing presence at Farmers Market on Fridays, Chamber Day on 6/22 a success, 2nd set of vintage postcards in the works and available soon. We are pursuing a Sarah J. Hale ornament. Full details are available in the attached report.

Museum Committee report in brief: Museum visitation since June meeting – 21 visitors, 22 children & 3 teachers. Purchases: icebox for kitchen & book, The Judge’s Daughter. Donations: from Pris & Jerry Hagebusch, Mary Barton trust, Barbara Aiken, Laura Pickney. Patrick Hennig is doing a project for the Historical Society on our military inventory for his Scouts Merit Badge. Volunteers are still needed to assist Executive Committee members when the museum is open on Sunday. Full details are available in the attached report.

Current Membership: 230 members

Newsletters were mailed on Friday, July 5 and will be posted on the website shortly. Cathryn Baird would like to see our Board members listed somewhere in the newsletter. We will work on this concept for the October newsletter.

Publicity Committee reported problems in getting our museum open information printed in the papers on a weekly basis. Priscilla Hagebusch will write letters to hopefully resolve the issue.

Jackie Cote brought two portrait pictures of Sarah Hale, one in her teens or early twenties and the second appeared to be when she was in her forties or early fifties. The older portrait was chosen for the limited edition ornament that will honor Sarah as the "Mother of Thanksgiving". Joan Dodge has agreed to do the portrait ornament. Jackie will check color of Sarah's hair and appropriate color of her dress and send the copy to Joan so she can prepare the proof.

Jackie Cote also asked permission to make up 6 sets of our Skating on the Common ornament note card scene as requested by the First Baptist Church pastor. Cost will be under \$10.00 and permission was given without a vote.

Roof quotes were presented by Larry Cote from contractors: Defying Gravity \$10,500; HP Roofing \$7,500 (\$12,995 for vented roof); WeatherCheck \$8,387 (\$14,597 for vented roof); Desilets Contracting \$6,543.50; KBS Barnworks \$8,690. Christine O'Brien, our Architect member, reported that she had a quote from United Construction but did not have it with her. After some discussion and Christina's professional opinion of the pros and cons of a vented roof, Virginia Irwin moved that we not consider a vented roof, seconded by Dean Stetson and unanimously voted in the affirmative. It was decided that we should see if we could get either a discount or materials donated then ask for a requote excluding the in-kind donations before making our decision. It is hopeful that a decision can be made at our August meeting.

Cathryn would like to have a binder of all of our past newsletters that would be available at the museum and for sale for a nominal amount. Larry will have the docs put the binders together as a project during our Sunday openings.

Our September Walking Tour program was discussed in terms of getting the word out and having the sign-up flyers available to the public. They were included as an insert in our recent newsletter mailing. Pris will get something on NCTV and see if the newspapers will do a story. Flyers will be available at the Farmer's Market. Jackie reported that an email had been received from Nancy Parssinen voicing concern that the group would step off the trail and onto her property where the foundation remnants of the Corbin Station are located. We will send her an email and allay her fears.

A motion was made by Virginia Irwin, seconded by Dean Stetson to replenish the Museum artifact fund with the usual \$500. (The money is transferred from the operating fund to the artifact fund on the monthly financials.) Vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

We have received a letter from Revite asking for a donation for the International Work Camp. It was discussed that we cannot donate to every worthy community request for funds as it is not part of our mission. A motion was made by Virginia Irwin, seconded by Pris Hagebusch not to donate to the Work Camp. Vote was unanimous in the affirmative. It was felt that we should offer to open the museum for the Work Camp attendees.

We have received a letter from the NH Preservation Alliance regarding their membership drive. Membership cost for organizations is \$50. Pris Hagebusch made a motion that we join the Alliance, seconded by Virginia Irwin. Vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Virginia Irwin reported that she is still working on badges for the docents and hopes to have them for September. Jackie reported that we are still waiting for Brent Stocker to bring the clock mock-up to see if we can get it into the back hall of the ground floor of the museum.

Christina reported that because of a work commitment she cannot be at the museum on Sunday, July 14. Instead she will fill the July 28 slot and Larry and Jackie will fill in on July 14. Virginia is still looking for more docents for when the museum is open on Sundays from 10 am to 2 pm.

Pris will meet with Bob Stanhope of Bacon Graphics to set up the Facebook page for us. The cost will be between \$25 and \$50.

Virginia and Jackie are working on updating the website. They met initially during Chamber Day reviewing the individual menu items and content.

Bereavement protocol was discussed when a member or immediate family of a member dies. It was agreed that a card be sent offering our condolences to the family.

Pris requested that a Programs Committee be established especially for refreshments and booking the library. Cathryn offered some possibilities for our October program from the Humanities Council as follows: Cows & Communities, NH Grange Movement, NH One Room Rural Schools and The Great Sheep Boom. All four are presented by Steve Taylor. Cathryn will see what is available. She also reported that we are all set with Sharon and Steve Woods from Claremont for the Sarah Hale program in November. This program is also through the Humanities Council and thanks go to Dick Gasset for donating the \$50 required.

Our historical society has a DAR flag that we are giving back to the DAR. The presentation will be made at the September DAR meeting. Laura Kessler has expressed a desire to be present for the presentation.

Larry Cote reported that the DAR has asked permission to hold their September 14th and November 9th meetings on the third floor of the museum. Permission has been granted.

Because of the lateness of the hour, it was decided to table discussion on the 20th Anniversary Corbin Bridge event until August. Dean Stetson felt that a separate committee should be formed for the organization of this signature event. Dean stated a desire to serve on the committee but would prefer not to chair it. He asked for names of persons involved in the original festival. Maura suggested that the Town Report for that year should provide much information.

Virginia Irwin presented a report on her study of NHS being able to accept credit cards in payment of our merchandise. Discussion included technology needed, costs, logistics when we are offsite. Virginia will continue her research and we will discuss further at our August meeting.

Having concluded our business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm

Respectfully submitted, Jackie Cote, Acting Secretary for Laura Kessler

