

Newport Historical Society Monthly Board Meeting
Monday, April 11, 2016
The Nettleton House

1. **Call to Order** by President Cathryn Baird at 6:38 p.m.
2. **Members Present:** Cathryn Baird, Jackie Cote, Larry Cote, Dick Gassett, Jerry Hagebusch, Priscilla Hagebusch, Jayna Hooper, Laura Kessler, Rita James, Dean Stetson, Ann Stout.
3. **Public Forum:** An historic AmTrak train will be on display at the Claremont Concord Railroad station on June 18th. The display area at Lambert's Auto across the street will be set up as an exhibit space. Dick Gassett will have his old train photos on display.

A **barn quilt** trail is in the process of being established in the Newport area. Barn quilts consist of wood painted with a quilt block pattern. A class will be offered at the Library Arts Center in July, taught by Becky Luppold. Participants will each receive a 1' x 1' square primed wood 'canvas.' Finished barn quilt products are typically hung outside barns or homes as decoration. Barn quilt trails are a way to create excitement about communities. This idea was started in the Midwest. Coos County, and Franklin County, VT, currently have established barn quilt trails for the public to enjoy. More information may be found at www.nhbarquilts.wordpress.com.

Congratulations was extended to Rita James for her beautiful solo, sung in the recent Opera House performance of "Oliver!"

4. **Minutes** of the March 14, 2016 board meeting were approved unanimously, after a request to change the date of the upcoming Chamber Day on the Common from Saturday, July 20th to Saturday, July 18th.
5. The **Treasurer's Report** was shared by Jackie Cote, with the following account summaries reviewed in detail:
 - i. Accounting Summary of 3/1/16 - 3/31/16
 - ii. Main Operating Account, Fiscal Year ending 9/30/16: *March 2016 Income and Expenditures were reviewed.*
 - iii. Nettleton House Account, FY ending 9/30/16: *March 2016 income/expenditures reviewed.*
 - iv. NHS Budget Comparison Operating Acct. – Income, 10/1/15-9/30/16: *March 2016 income reviewed.*
 - v. NHS Budget Comp. Operating Acct. – Expenses, 1/1/15-9/30/16: *March 2016 expenses reviewed.*
 - vi. NHS Budget Comp. Nettleton Acct. – Income, 10/1/15 – 9/30/15: *March 2016 sales/donation income reviewed.*
 - vii. NHS Budget Comp. Nettleton Acct. – Expenses, 10/1/15 – 9/30/15: *March 2016 building expenses reviewed.*

The final printing for Maxine Houle's book on **Jesse Scott** has been done, and the NHS has only 10 books left. These 10 books are the NHS museum's to sell at \$25.00 each, with 100% of the proceeds going to the NHS.

To date, the **Income** in the Nettleton House Account is nearly twice what was previously anticipated. This leaves the museum in very good financial condition, even after the expenses of \$506.00 for a new **hot water heater**, and \$948.43 as a 50% down payment for a new **security system**. These two repair and maintenance expenses may have a positive effect on the amount the NHS is paying for its **insurance policy**. Jackie will drop off the NHS Museum insurance policy to McCrillis & Eldredge to have David McCrillis review it.

Priscilla made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report; Rita seconded; approved unanimously.

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

Jackie has received permission to use four new NHS postcards the **skating** and **Pollard's Mills** photos by Beth Rexford that appeared in the Newport Chamber of Commerce brochure. Venita Nudd has also sent to Jackie **Fall Corbin Bridge** photos for selection for new NHS postcards. Jon Ryba has agreed to donate his images of **Main Street** to the NHS for postcards, under the condition that *all* persons who have donated images to the NHS receive **framed recognition** (to be on display at the Museum) for their contributions. The NHS will also arrange to make their business cards available to the public. The NHS has determined not to order additional Newport "collage" postcards through the Hansons of Charlestown, as the NHS will be required to pay a \$25.00 fee for every order. The NHS has a plethora of its own photos that may be used to create our own version of such a postcard.

Ann Stout is creating a **poster**-sized image of Bruce Kozlik's Corbin Covered Bridge postcard image, for future sale.

The **Farmer's Market** will be beginning on May 20th. The NHS will be hosting the Newport Chamber of Commerce's **"Business After Hours"** on Wednesday, May 11th. Lee Dufort and Angie Stephens will provide the refreshments. Pris Hagebusch will be baking desserts.

The NHS currently has **232 members**, which is 31 short of the 263 members that the NHS had as of Sept. 30. 2015.

7. The **Museum Report** was given by Larry Cote.

The Museum has received 105 **donated items** through the month of March. Ten members from the public signed the guestbook, although many more guests visited the museum. A reminder was issued to PLEASE SIGN THE GUESTBOOK any time you enter the museum, as this helps the NHS to keep a record of the actual number of its visitors for annual reporting purposes.

The museum is looking for a photo of the **elm tree** that formerly stood beyond United Construction, on the left side of Route 10. This elm tree was once part of the Heath Farm land; the town cut it down in 2008 believing that it was diseased. As the town is now using the wood from this elm tree to make presentation bowls, it would like to have a photo to go along with the bowl. While most elm trees in the country have succumbed to disease, Newport continues to be home to a number of very large, old, elm trees. New Hampshire's "Queen Elm" (the second largest in the state) is located across the street from the Senior Center, according to the State's Conservation Committee. (Similar to the elm, the chestnut tree used to make up one-third of the trees on the East Coast of the U.S. in the 1900s, but nearly all died from disease.) In light of this conversation, the NHS may look into providing a program on **"Forestry."**

Jayna Hooper has nearly completed her work on a diary by **Charles Emerson**, who sailed around the tip of South America en route to the gold mines in California in 1852. It is anticipated that a draft will be available for viewing at the "Business After Hours" event to be held at the Nettleton House on May 11th, with copies for sale by June.

The Museum report was approved unanimously.

8. **Old Business:**

The NHS newsletter will be going out in the mail within the next couple of weeks. It will feature Towle School – an appropriate feature item, since the school district has released the news that Towle School will be closed after this school year, for financial reasons. "Everyone knows the cost of everything, but no one knows the value of anything," Cathryn quoted Oscar Wilde as saying.

Upcoming programs will include the following possibilities: (1) Steve Taylor, from the N.H. Humanities Council, to discuss agricultural fairs and granges; (2) Alan Coop, son of the late Surgeon General C. Everett Coop, to discuss the History of Health Care; (3) Charles Emerson's Diary and Newport's Gold Rush connections; (4) Kevin Sargeant,

to lead a hike at the old Finn athletic grounds behind LaValley Building Supply; (5) the NHS will host an event honoring Paul Rheingold and his patronage of Billy B. Van.

The NHS board discussed stewardship possibilities for the two \$5,000 donations recently received. This **endowment** money will not be placed into stocks, as there is not enough of it to properly diversify. The board's preliminary consensus was not to place the money in bonds, as bonds incur fees. The best route at this time, then, seems to be to place these funds in CDs, which can be held in the local bank. However, it was discussed that further options, such as precious metals, might also be an option. The NHS board will continue to explore prudent options that will allow these funds to grow in the safest manner. Dean made a motion to place the \$10,000 endowment fund in a **six-month CD** until other options are reviewed. Dick seconded the motion. This motion was unanimously approved.

9. **New Business:**

Dean is the keeper of the NHS website. To date, all newsletters have been updated with links on the website. Dean is continuing to explore other website-related options, such as Google maps, Facebook links, and supporter and sponsor links. He has asked for \$100.00 to be allotted for the purposes of necessary further website updates. Dean will be working with Ryan O'Brien for said purposes. Jackie made a motion to approve this request; Rita seconded; it was approved unanimously.

10. **Meeting Adjourned:** 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jayna H. Hooper, Secretary