

Newport Historical Society Monthly Board Meeting
Monday, October 10, 2016
The Nettleton House

1. **Call to Order** by President Cathryn Baird at 6:36 p.m.
2. **Members Present:** Cathryn Baird, Jackie Cote, Larry Cote, Jerry Hagebusch, Priscilla Hagebusch, Jayna Hooper, Rita James, Laura McCrillis Kessler, Ann Stout, Stan Sweeney.
- Public Present:** Arnie Hebert
3. **Minutes** of the September 16, 2016, minutes were moved by Larry Cote, with **correction noted pertaining to Colleen Hennig's filming assistant, Melanie, from NCTV.** Dean seconded. Unanimous.
4. The **Treasurer's Report** was handed out by Jackie Cote, with the following account summaries:
 - i. Accounting Summary of 9/1/16 - 9/31/16
 - ii. Main Operating Account, Fiscal Year ending 9/30/16: *September 2016 Income and Expenditures were reviewed.*
 - iii. Nettleton House Account, FY ending 9/30/16: *September 2016 income/expenditures reviewed.*
 - iv. NHS Budget Comparison Operating Acct. – Income, 10/1/15-9/30/16: *Sept. 2016 income reviewed.*
 - v. NHS Budget Comp. Operating Acct. – Expenses, 10/1/15-9/30/16: *Sept. 2016 expenses reviewed.*
 - vi. NHS Budget Comp. Nettleton Acct. – Income, 10/1/15 – 9/30/16: *Sept. 2016 sales/donation income reviewed.*
 - vii. NHS Budget Comp. Nettleton Acct. – Expenses, 10/1/15 – 9/30/16: *Sept. 2016 building expenses reviewed.*

Priscilla will meet with Jackie in order to format page numbers for the report in the future.

Cathryn and Jackie will meet with Scott McGuire to determine how to invest endowment. Endowment monies are currently in a CD. Bonds may be considered.

There are approximately 100 copies of the Newport Book left. One was sold to Fritz Weatherbee. Weatherbee came to Newport who was here to film about Sibley Scythe Factory on WMUR, as well as Austin Corbin.

The NHS has doubled its anticipated profit in sales and income for the 9/1/15-9/30/16 Fiscal Year.

All improvements to the museum should be mentioned in the next newsletter, as a reflection and report on where NHS money has been stewarded.

The Treasurer's report was moved by Dean and seconded by Pris. Unanimously accepted.

5. The **Fundraising Report** was given by Jackie Cote.
There are **no more Jesse Scott books for sale.** If anyone would like to read one and doesn't already have one, they will have to borrow one from the Richards Free Library.

Jan McMahon, past Newport Rotary President, has notified the NHS that **\$500 from the Newport Rotary** will be forthcoming, to be used to purchase carts for the Annex.

Postcard stamps are now available to be purchased for 35¢.

Jane Dearden of the Croydon Historical Society has submitted the ***New England Inheritance*** book for publication. This is a story about the **Forehand family of Croydon** and reveals how events such as the 1849 Gold Rush and the Civil War affected the family. For instance, Lloyd Forehand was a guard for President Lincoln at the time Lincoln was shot at Ford's Theater in 1863. The book also reveals that Lloyd Forehand had, regrettably, been married to one of Mary Lincoln's maids who turned out to be a Confederate spy! Descendants of the family are paying for the printing, which will be done by Town and Country Reprographics. This book may provide excellent material for a future NHS program, perhaps in the spring of 2017.

The NHS will have a booth at the **Richards PTO Craft Fair** (Sat., Nov. 5th), and will commence its boutique at the **Sugar River Savings Bank** beginning on Friday, November 4th. The NHS boutique will take place at SRSB most every Friday and Saturday throughout the months of November (except Thanksgiving week) and December. The NHS will also participate in **Twos Just Before Christmas** on Saturday, December 10th, at the Opera House.

The LAC has accepted NHS ornaments for the **Gallery of Gifts** boutique. Note: People should check their Newport ornament collection to be sure they have all of them before retired ornaments are no longer available.

The **membership drive** is now taking place, with 157 members paid ahead/life/renewed/new. Membership in 2016 reached 260 (3 short of last year's record of 263).

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

The NHS has 13 visitors sign the guest book during the month of September. Six individuals donated a total of 212 items to the museum.

The **uniforms** donated by Gary Nichols last month have been cleaned and look great! **Artwork** by Ken Andler, purchased from the Go Lightly Consignment Shop in September, is now hanging in the bedroom. Some of this work may have never been seen before by the public; people should come and see! There is also a **new Billy B. Van display room**, designed by Larry and Stan, that looks great!

The NHS has been invited to speak to the **Rotary** at a date to be determined.

The NHS is still waiting for the wall to be capped with granite and for Vermont Life Safety to add the smoke detector piece to the alarm system.

7. **New Business:**

The **October 11th NHS program** will feature an oral interview, done by a Colby Sawyer student in the 1990s, with Van friends, members of the Collins family of Georges Mills. The intention is for it to provide a springboard for further community discussion about Van and his contributions to the area. A taped presentation and reading by Evan Hill will also be prepared. Pris will provide refreshments.

Harold Perkins, former NHS director and resident of Summercrest, though soon to be moving to the Sullivan County Health Care facility, will be donating his collection of historical writings and associated artifacts to the NHS. The collection, which consists of three file cabinets and boxes, will be moved into the Annex.

Board elections took place. Dean nominated current officers to hold seats for another year. Ann Stout seconded the motion. Unanimous.

Cathryn discussed a *Valley News* article about Newport man **Josh Tetrault** who uses his metal detector to uncover artifacts such as coins, buttons. Cathryn will contact the *Valley News* reporter for contact information for Mr. Tetrault to see if he might be interested in presenting in a future NHS program.

Cindy Hill Hogarty (former Newport citizen, daughter of Evan Hill), chair of **Killingworth, CT's 350th anniversary** committee, emailed the NHS to inquire about setting up an exchange. Letters, proclamations, displays, historical anecdotes are of interest: after all, it was residents of Killingworth, CT, who first settled Newport in 1766 (though Newport's charter was granted in 1761).

The annual meeting of the **Association of New Hampshire Historical Societies** will take place on Saturday, October 22nd, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Hopkinton. A copy of the **Billy B. Van book** was submitted to the association as "research worthy of merit" and under consideration for recognition.

Dick Gassett submitted a written letter of recognition to the NHS board. The resignation was accepted, with regret, unanimously.

Donna Lizotte cited to Jackie a price of **propane** at the town rate, which will be the same as last year. It was agreed that this is a good price.

Jackie will work with Pris on a **gift item flyer** to be distributed to NHS members via email/mail, as was done in 2015.

8. **Old Business:**

- I. Stone Vault will go ahead and do an “over-engraving” of the **Billy B. Van gravestone**. The cost is around \$80.00, and the bill will be sent to the NHS and thereafter forwarded to Paul Rheingold.
- II. Discussion concerning the use of the **Past Perfect program** ensued. Cathryn reported that the New London Historical Society has the Past Perfect Program. It is not believed that the Croydon Historical Society uses the program. Smaller societies lack the manpower to maintain the program, while larger societies that maintain staff are able to better utilize the program for inventory purposes.

Dean expressed his opinion that if the NHS were to commence inventory through the Past Perfect Program, the society must be committed to the software in order to get the best use out of it: “Software and computers should be tools to aid [the NHS]. Do we need this [program]? Are we past our ability to utilize a manual system of inventory? If so, do we have the staff that can commit themselves to the software? If we have volunteers, is [inputting items into the Past Perfect Program] the best use of volunteer time?” Dean concluded by stating that manual operations saves money, manpower, and puts the focus back on getting the job done.

Larry explained that if he receives many items from a particular family, as occurs frequently, all of those family items are stored together in a particular section of the museum. The value of the Past Perfect Program would be that the computerized inventory could trace particular items that may be part of a collection that nevertheless would be of interest to someone looking for information pertaining to a certain subject.

Arnie explained that Past Perfect serves as an index: there is a query function that people can choose to search for particular items. Arnie is taking accession sheets, finding items, taking photos of objects. Each item is labeled with a photo and a number. These numbers are useful as a search tool through the Past Perfect program’s object code function. Persons using the Past Perfect program can search for items in four categories: (1) images (photos, paintings); (2) objects; (3) archives (newspapers, notices, etc.); (4) library (books).

Ann asked about the percentage of holdings that are already in the Past Perfect program. The answer was unknown. Ann also asked what Arnie would like to see if the NHS would like to move forward with Past Perfect? Arnie proposed that he and Larry may begin by inventorying the 4,000 items, including books, listed on an original inventory list, compiled by Andy Andrews, from the Richards Library Museum.

Jayna asked Larry to consider creating a rough blueprint of the museum and annex outlining the various collections that the museum holds and where they are held. Such a blueprint would help to familiarize all NHS directors with the museum’s holdings, and perhaps also generate ideas from the directors as to specific collections that the NHS agrees would be useful to input into an electronic database.

Cathryn asked board members if they have the time to be able to contribute to Past Perfect inventory. The NHS volunteer board members responded that they do not have the volunteer time to engage in such an endeavor.

Ann asked if it was possible for the NHS to pay someone to enter items into a database, through grant money and/or an internship? Jackie and Cathryn explained that the costs to the small, non-profit organization to hire can quickly become prohibitive due to worker's compensation, federal taxes, and so forth. However, Cathryn offered to speak with Jeff Nintzel of NCTV to find out more about their successful internship program that partners with local colleges.

Jayna pointed out that if the NHS were to accept an intern for inventory purposes, or else expand access to the NHS to volunteers, then it may be in the best interest of the NHS to consider video surveillance as part of the security system.

Ann suggested that a **tutorial** to understand the Past Perfect program might be part of the November meeting so that each NHS director may be able to witness what goes into it. A **tour of the annex's storage** was also suggested. Larry further agreed to have a **blueprint** for museum item locations available for board members. Further discussion about Past Perfect was tabled.

- III. Cathryn distributed the **written key policy** for board members to review. The NHS's policy is that keys are just given to board members if the board member has compelling reason to warrant access to the NHS for purposes in the interest of the organization.
- IV. Discussion about adding a "**special event**" sign to the existing NHS museum sign was tabled until the November meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jayna H. Hooper, Secretary