

**Newport Historical Society
Board Meeting, January 9, 2017
Nettleton House Museum, 6:30 pm**

President Cathryn Baird called the meeting to order at 6:28 pm.

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

Absent: Jayna Hooper

Congratulations were offered to Larry & Jackie Cote as recipients of the Chamber of Commerce 2017 Citizens of the Year award.

Minutes Approval:

- 1) Motion to Approve the **November minutes** was made by Larry Cote, 2nd by Rita James. Approval was nearly unanimous with Laura Kessler abstaining because she did not attend that meeting.
 - 2) Motion to Approve the **December minutes** was made by Pris Hagebusch, 2nd by Larry Cote. Approval was unanimous.
- Thanks was offered to Cathryn for hosting the December meeting at her home.

Treasurer's Report

Financials were presented by Jackie Cote. A Motion to Approve was made by Arnie Hebert, 2nd by Jerry Hagebusch. Approval was unanimous.

Fundraising Report was presented by Jackie Cote. The new photo pillows were a success with Skating on the Common the most popular. The committee will discuss a reorder. We now have 50 copies of the book *Written in Stone* available for \$10. We ended our SRB boutique on a high note after missing the 12/16 & 17 weekend due to bad weather. A new 100 note card order resulted in a new possibility of photo note cards. A replenishment order of size large Sunshine tee shirts has been received. We received 35 copies of the Forehand book, *A New England Inheritance*, from Croydon Historical Society on consignment. We will sell the book for \$15 each. The Gallery of Gifts has ended and it appears that 33 ornaments have been sold. A \$100 donation was received from Louise Russell and will be targeted to purchase another roll-around cart for the Annex.

Membership Drive remains active with 211 members. The Reminder Letter will be mailed later this week. Non-renewals number 53. An honorary family membership was proposed for Martha Naylor who has decorated the outside of the museum for several years. Members agreed to this proposition.

Museum Report was presented by Museum Director, Larry Cote. Seven visitors signed the register since the last meeting and two donations of artifacts were received. Five

artifacts were purchased including a framed photo of an Elk herd in Corbin Park, clock museum poster, Corbin Park book and two Ken Andler paintings. Museum supply purchases included 36 additional acid free archival boxes, package of 12 disposable cotton gloves, 27 twisted wire easels in 3", 4" and 6" sizes for use on the new risers. Wood was also purchased for new riser shelving for the product display table in the office. A wall mounted post card rack with 12 slots has also been ordered. Past Perfect data entry is moving along nicely.

Several members are having difficulty accessing the 2017 Docent calendar on Google. Jackie will send Biddy's link in hopes that will solve the problem.

Jackie noticed how much better the lighting is in the Champollion art gallery as opposed to the front room where the meeting was being held. After limited discussion, Jackie offered a motion that we replace all of the remaining track lighting incandescent bulbs with the new LED bulbs that do not emit UV rays and offer superior light, 2nd by Arnie Hebert. Approval was unanimous.

Cathryn reported that a couple months ago, she, Rita, Jackie & Larry attended an Association of Historical Societies of New Hampshire annual meeting in Hopkinton. NHS received two awards, one for Research and Documentation and one for Public Programming. The subject matter for both awards was Billy B Van. Cathryn read a press release written by AHSNH. Dean will put it on the website, forward it to Archie Mountain for the newspapers and mention will also be made in the newsletter. Cheshire Historical Society has mentioned that they would like Jayna and Dean to present the BBV program to their group.

Dean stated that Sunapee Historical Society was soliciting support for the purchase of the Abbott Library at two public hearings and wondered if NHS should offer support. Cathryn felt that since these are public hearings that NHS should not interfere since we are not property owners or residents of Sunapee. Since Dean's family owns property in Sunapee, it would be possible for his support at these hearings.

Cathryn asked members at the December meeting to think of a goal for 2017 relative to NHS that they personally would like to pursue. Results were:

Jayna – Finish the Emerson Diary and continue research on an SJH book

Pris – Prepare a new NHS brochure to replace the old one

Cathryn – Secure new docents and members

Jackie – Secure more members and artifacts from the business community

Larry – Continue to organize the Annex

Dean – Establish a working relationship between NHS and local schools

Rita – Continue organizing statistical records of births, deaths & marriages

Jerry – More time to help at all levels

Arnie – Continue with Past Perfect data entry

Stan – Assist Arnie with Past Perfect data entry

Laura – Photograph donated paintings with possibility of creating note cards

Cathryn mentioned that the latest Kearsarge magazine had a lovely photo of our museum building urging visitation on Sunday, February 5.

The Program Committee will meet later this month to finalize programs for this year with an eye to the Humanities To Go grant program.

Cathryn is still trying to connect with Mary Lou to see if she and Brenda will sign some of the *Written In Stone* books and possibly do a program on this subject.

Cathryn announced that she, Larry and Jackie will attend a meeting on Wednesday in Keene with NH DOJ speakers on the subject of museum/artifact security where Board members are concerned.

Jackie wondered if Ann Stout, who had set up a Facebook page for NHS, would still maintain it now that she was off the Board. Jackie will check with Ann; however, Laura Kessler offered to do it if Ann could not continue.

An informal discussion ensued about demolition of buildings outside of the purview of the Heritage Commission which consists of the two Historic Districts. Planning and Zoning Administrator, Julie Magnuson, will be asked to speak to us at the March meeting on this subject as the group does not want Newport to indiscriminately lose any more historical structures without at least the opportunity to document their existence. Arthur mentioned the white building behind Salt Hill Pub (referred to as the Colonial House) as looking like it could be torn down. He suggested that we try to photograph the interior and research the architecture after Larry spoke of having toured the building and the unique features that he observed. Dean mentioned that he had many interior photos of the Gables (old Moose home) next to Towle School and that we should be sure to preserve these.

Jackie stated that she was concerned about the recordation of history in general going forward in time because everything is becoming digitized and written documentation is disappearing. The group concurred that it is a concern for the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 pm. (???not sure of the time)

Jackie Cote
Recording Secretary (in Jayna's absence)