

Newport Historical Society Minutes

January 11, 2010

Sugar River Bank Community Room

This meeting was called to order by Cathryn Baird at 7:11 pm.

Attendees

| | | | |
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| Kevin Sargent | Arnie Hebert | Dottie Collins | Stan Sweeney |
| Dakota Sargent | Mary Lou McGuire | Cathryn Baird | Christina O'Brien |

1. Executive Committee Reports

Secretary Report

The affirmative vote to accept the Secretary's report was moved by Dakota Sargent and seconded by Dottie Collins

Treasurer Report

The affirmative vote to accept the Treasurer's report was moved by Christian O'Brien and seconded by Arnie Hebert.

2. Old Business

Historical Society Goals for 2010: After a lengthy discussion, the following goals were agreed upon by the membership:

Museum:

1. To accession the approximately 4000 'as found' pre-2006 items in the museum using the PastPerfect program.
2. To expand the exhibit area into the large room.
3. To expand our educational outreach to local schools.
4. To solve the lack of security for our most valuable artifacts.

Cemetery:

To create a preservation plan for Pine Street West Cemetery based on a professional needs assessment.

Fundraising:

To develop an online gift shop and expand our presence in the community.

Membership:

To expand membership by 10 %.

3. New Business

A. Pier Bridge

A motion was made by Mary Lou McGuire and seconded by Stan Sweeney to allow Jackie Cote to transfer funds from the Pier Bridge 7-day CD to the checking account on her signature only. Unanimously approved.

- A letter will be sent to the Sugar River bank to this effect. Two signatures will still be required for checks drawn on the account for Pier Bridge work.

B. 250th Celebration: Cathryn Baird reported on the progress of the 250th Committee.

- Committee members are: Ella Casey (Chair), Cathryn Baird, Neal Boucher, Ted Niboli, and Betty Maiola
- The next meeting will be held at the end of January; monthly meetings are planned thereafter.
- A call to the Newport community will soon be made for people to work on subcommittees.

C. Winter Carnival

Historical Society involvement in the Winter Carnival was discussed. A display of pictures will be placed in the window of WCNL and the Fundraising Committee will investigate selling items at the Opera House or at the Sugar River Bank.

4. Committee Reports

Fundraising Committee:

- The Treasurer's report contains specific information regarding holiday sales at the Sugar River Bank and LAC Gallery of Gifts. Mary Lou McGuire reported that 35 of the 46 foil cemetery impressions at the LAC were sold, totaling \$1070.00. We cleared \$525.18 after expenses, and still have 11 items available for sale.
- Discussion about creating a promotional brochure for the ornament collection ensued.

Museum Committee:

- Arnie Hebert mentioned the Museum Committee was considering opening the museum on certain days off season, such as during Winter Carnival and other holidays.
- The museum has acquired some military uniforms and a picture of Billy B. Van from the American Legion; thanks are extended to the Legion for giving us these items.
- The Museum Committee is accumulating items that have no relevance to Newport to present to the Society for deaccession.
- Under discussion are ways to promote the museum within the community. This past year we relied mostly on the sign for the Common, but it did not appear frequently enough to be of much help. The Committee is exploring other means of advertising.

Website Committee:

The website committee will meet in January to focus on posting the Gift Shop.

Membership Committee:

The FY 2010 Membership Drive has ended, and we now have 112 members.

Cemetery Committee:

The Cemetery Committee hopes to schedule a presentation to the Board of Selectman in April regarding the documentation work that has been accomplished at Pine Street West and our plans for developing a preservation plan. The goal is to ready Pine Street West, our oldest cemetery, for the 250th celebration in 2011.

Newsletter Committee

It was suggested that we thank and list by name members who gave donations above the regular membership fee in the February issue.

5. Announcements/Queries/Requests

- Arnie Hebert reported that the Museum loaned our Sullivan County Reports to a researcher in Unity.
- Cathryn Baird will convey to Abigail Trafford a list and pictures of the paintings donated to the Museum.
- A request was made to have the former secretaries deposit their notebooks in the Museum.
- The next meeting will be on February 8, 2010, 7:00PM, at the Sugar River Bank Community Room.

6. Adjournment

This meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Lou McGuire, Secretary