

# Newport Historical Society Minutes

May 10, 2010

Sugar River Bank Community Room

This meeting was called to order by Cathryn Baird at 7:00 PM.

## Attendees

Craig Cowens, Anita Cowens, Andy Andrews, Patrick Hayward, Arnie Hebert, Paul Baird, Arthur Walsh, Laura Kessler, Judi Berry, Bud Berry, Larry Cote, Brenda Curtis, Roy MacDonald, Todd Coull, Christina O'Brien, Jackie Cote, Cathryn Baird, Mary Lou McGuire

## 1. Call to Order

President Baird called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. The request of a member to record the session was discussed, but as no recording equipment was brought to the meeting, the question was dropped. It was determined that a vote of the membership would be required for a meeting to be recorded.

## 2. Program: A History of Postcards: Views of Newport, NH presented by Larry.

Larry Cote presented an informative and entertaining program on the history of postcards, using postcards of Newport as illustrative examples. Thirty-three people attended. The audience was attentive and responded with comments and questions of interest.

## 3. Business Meeting

### A. Approval of Consent Agenda

#### Secretary Report

A motion to accept the Secretary minutes for the April 19, 2010 meeting was moved by Larry Cote and seconded by Christina O'Brien. The motion was carried by affirmative voice votes: two voted against. Approved.

#### Treasurer Report

A motion to accept the Treasurer report for the period of April 1 to April 30, 2010 was moved by Brenda Curtis and seconded by Paul Baird. The motion was carried by affirmative voice votes: three voted against. Approved

#### Executive Minutes

A motion to accept the Executive Committee minutes of April 26, 2010 and May 6, 2010 was moved by Arthur Walsh and seconded by Paul Baird. The motion was carried by affirmative voice votes: three voted against. Approved

### B. Committee Reports

President Baird announced that copies of committee reports were available at this meeting. Committees reported on were: Pier Bridge, Fundraising, Cemetery, Website, Newsletter, and Program.

### C. Old Business

#### 1. Reactivated Building Committee

The following people contacted President Baird by the May 10 cutoff date, and are members of the NHS Building Committee: Todd Coull, Larry Cote, Jackie Cote, Christina O'Brien, Cathryn Baird and Mary Lou McGuire.

#### 2. Update on safety at the museum

Concerns of safety at the Museum were addressed in the following manner: installation of a new telephone system with three handsets; soon to be installed battery operated smoke detector; statement by Christina O'Brien, certified architect in the state of New Hampshire, that the Museum is in compliance with the International Building Code,

accepted by the State of New Hampshire: one means of egress is allowed for forty-nine people. As the museum is allowed a capacity of twenty-five people, we are well within the code.

#### D. New Business

Plaque for Pier Bridge and Wrights Bridge: Vice President Todd Coull put forth an idea to have a plaque established at the Pier Bridge, to commemorate the hard work by so many different people and organizations that worked to raise over \$143,000 for the preservation of these two railroad covered bridges. Larry Cote mentioned that funding in the grant provided for signage at completion of the project, but not for those who raised the money. Jackie Cote gave an overview of the project and successful fundraising effort. Besides the NHS, businesses, interested organizations such as the Covered Bridge Society, NH Historical Societies, and individuals from thirty-seven of the fifty-two sates contributed. Roy MacDonald made the suggestion to use railroad ties to erect a free standing plaque. A request for other ideas was put forth, and the issue will be discussed at our next meeting.

#### E. Announcements

Newsletter: President Baird displayed the May newsletter and complimented our youth member Dakota Sargent on the article he wrote about Specialist Justin A. Rollins. She also thanked Andy Andrews for contributing Argus Champion articles about World War II

Valley News article: President Baird displayed the May 2 full page article on the Cemetery Committees' work in Pine Street West Cemetery. This was great publicity for the NHS and the town of Newport. We would like to take advantage of the opportunity to publish historic articles about Newport in the Valley News. If anyone would like to contribute an article or make a suggestion, please contact President Baird: [cbaird@summercrest.net](mailto:cbaird@summercrest.net) or 863-5089.

#### F. Public Forum

Arnie Hebert suggested we institute the practice of beginning each meeting with a prayer or the Pledge of Allegiance. Larry Cote offered that it is not a usual occurrence at historical society meetings in this area, although he was not opposed to the idea. Arthur Walsh stated that it may cause some controversy if we opened with a prayer and that comment was supported by Craig Cowens. Cathryn Baird suggested that a pledge might be more appropriate, and requested the topic appear on the June agenda.

#### G. Adjournment

This meeting of the Newport Historical Society was adjourned at 9:05 PM. Motion made by Larry Cote and seconded by Jackie Cote. Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Lou McGuire  
Secretary