

Newport Historical Society Minutes
Executive Committee
October 7, 2010
NHS Museum

Attendees

Executive Committee: Cathryn Baird, Todd Coull, Jackie Cote, Christina O'Brien, Mary Lou McGuire

1. Call to order: This meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM

2. Public forum: No questions.

3. Committee Reports:

See complete reports on file for Museum, Membership, Pier Bridge, and Fundraising
Membership: Jackie Cote was happy to report that several new members have signed up at the beginning of our membership drive. She will contact Steve Smith at WCNL to try to get a spot to publicize the membership drive and the NHS accomplishments.

Pier Bridge: A meeting will take place on October 8 to determine progress and for payment of next installment. Expected completion date: December 22, demobilization date: January 10, 2011.

Fundraising: The NHS will participate in the Library Arts Center Gallery of Gifts from November 12 to December 18. The NHS will also be set up to sell gift items in the foyer of the Sugar River Bank on Fridays and Saturdays during November and December.

Museum: President Baird asks that all NHS members keep a log of the number of hours spent on historical society projects each month. Hours can be sent to the secretary's email: newporths1761@gmail.com

4. Old Business

A. NH Humanities Council program

Programs to be cosponsored with the Richards Free Library in 2011:

January 10 – Fiddle contests in New Hampshire (confirmed)

February 7 – New Hampshire on Skis (confirmed)

March 14 – Lafayette and the Farewell Tour (confirmed)

April 11 – Colonial New Hampshire (confirmed)

May 9 – Covered Bridges of New Hampshire (proposed)

June 14 – Town by Town, Native Americans in New Hampshire

These programs will be held at the Richards Free Library.

B. REVITE Membership

Jackie Cote reported on her attendance at REVITE: Newport Revitalization Committee. She suggested the NHS become a member, pointing out the importance of the NHS presence at REVITE. In October she will make a presentation regarding the progress of the work on the Pier and Wrights bridges, and our membership drive. In November the NHS will present the Pine Street West cemetery preservation program. Mary Lou McGuire made a motion the

NHS join REVITE at a yearly dues of \$35.00, seconded by Jackie Cote, unanimously approved.

C. Capital Campaign and Endowment Fund

Although this is not an action item at this time, as the NHS is awaiting the results of the LCHIP grant (expected in November) which would enable us to purchase the Nettleton House, a brief discussion ensued. If the move to the Nettleton House is made, initial thoughts are to create a business plan and a brochure to promote our capital campaign to establish an endowment fund. We will develop a list of contact people in the meantime. Some discussion was devoted to what signs would be needed, as well as acquiring a plaque for the building to indicate its placement on the National Register of Historic Places.

D. Business plan

To be addressed if the purchase of the Nettleton House becomes a reality.

E. Notepaper for NHS

Christina O'Brien brought a sample of the artwork from Diana Piotrow, watercolor artist from New London, to be considered for use as NHS notepaper. The Executive Committee was very impressed with her work, and will pursue the matter with Diana at the next Executive Committee meeting. Contact a Board member to see the sample.

5. New Business

A. Museum Acquisitions: 1939 Newport Winter Carnival film

The NHS was contacted by Nancy Norwalk of Plainfield in regard to a film in her possession of scenes from the 1939 Winter Carnival. Interest was expressed in acquiring this rare footage, and the topic was referred to the Museum Committee for discussion and to contact Ms. Walker for more details as to cost, procedures for converting the film to DVD, and donation specifics. The secretary will contact her and inform her of our interest and to expect contact from the Museum Committee in the near future.

B. Acquisition policy/procedures

The need for a specific internal procedure for museum acquisitions was discussed. An acquisition policy is in place (regarding deeds of gift and accessioning of donations) but the need for guidelines on how the various members of the NHS Executive Board and Museum Committee handle offers of donations need to be revisited and clarified. Christina O'Brien informed the Executive Board that the Museum Committee was meeting next week, and this would be discussed.

C. Museum supplies: Larry Cote requests \$200.00 for preservation supplies.

A motion was made by Christina O'Brien and seconded by Todd Coull to grant the request for \$200.00 to purchase preservation supplies for the museum collection. Unanimously approved.

D. NHS publication of a 250th Booklet

President Baird informed the Executive Board of the project underway to reprint and update the 1961 Newport Bicentennial Booklet for the 250th celebration in 2011. She is currently focusing on ways to acquire sponsorship of this project possibly by the management of the Eagle Times and local businesses.

E. Other New Business.

President Baird presented some recent donations to the NHS museum. Barbara Huff donated two NH Profiles magazines from 1961 and 1962. One of them showcased local blacksmith Gardiner Stetson, Sr. Marie Bugbee donated an Argus Show Book, date unknown. Many thanks to Ms. Huff and Ms. Bugbee.

Christina O'Brien mentioned the need to fill holes in the NHS collection, particularly items from recent history. The Museum committee will discuss ways to approach the public in order to acquire materials.

6. Agenda items for October 18 meeting

Agenda items for the October 18 annual meeting are:

- The Brick Church, a program on the South Congregational Church presented by Jim Perkins of Sunapee.
- Annual NHS elections
President – Cathryn Baird
Vice President – Todd Coull
Treasurer – Jackie Cote
Secretary – Mary Lou McGuire
Museum Committee – Larry Cote, Christina O'Brien, Brenda Curtis
- A sign up sheet for NHS committees for the coming year will also be distributed.

7. Adjournment

This meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm.