

**Newport Historical Society
Executive Committee and General Membership Meetings
September 10, 2012 – 6:00 PM
Richards Library Ballroom**

Attendees: Cathryn Baird, Jerry Hagebusch, Laura Kessler, Christina O'Brien.

1. Call to order at 6:06 PM by President Baird.
2. The minutes from the August 13th meeting were reviewed and accepted as presented.
3. The treasurer's report will be presented at the next meeting.
4. Committee Reports:
 - A. **Membership:** President Baird reported that over 230 membership letters were sent out.
 - B. **Museum:** Christina and President Baird will be displaying a NHS table at the September 12th Open House at Newport Middle High School. This will be a good opportunity for the Society to share what resources are available to the school community.

President Baird suggested that a log book be created to log volunteer hours. It was also brought up that it would be nice to give volunteers recognition pins after completing a certain number of hours.

The museum has received over 100 questions from individuals seeking information.

The Museum Committee will be meeting in the future to discuss making the current exhibits look more like Christmas/the holidays.

Fifty-two collections have been received with over 995 artifacts and ephemera.

- C. **Fundraising:** Record high sales were reported from the various sales venues from this past summer.
5. Old Business:
 - A. We are still waiting to hear about the window washing estimates.
 - B. Jack Thorson will look at the window repair job and will give an estimate for the job.
 - C. President Baird continues to pursue estimates for the roof.
 - D. The Homecoming Parade on September 29th was discussed. Members will be walking with a banner for the Society.

6. New Business:
 - A. A motion was made and seconded that a man's hat with box and certificate, that was made in Newport and belonged to a "Bartlett," be purchased for the NHS' collection, for \$150.00. The motion passed unanimously. (This hat was in Barbara Huff's shop.)
 - B. October's program will focus on the NHS' anniversary.
 - C. The newsletter will be mailed at the end of September and will highlight the NHS' birthday, which will be celebrated during an afternoon Open House. Priscilla suggested selling food during the event (we can use The Old Court House's tent). Priscilla will contact Arthur Walsh to see if the Society can use his cider press for the event.

7. Public Forum

The Public Forum began at 6:28 PM. President Baird discussed restructuring the Board, to increase the number of members. The Bylaws will need to be revised to create a NHS Board of Directors, which will consist of twelve members. It was discussed that the Board will have meetings and will make the decisions for the membership. Meetings will always have a public forum component. President Baird would like to look at this possible change occurring in 2013. The Bylaws will need to be reviewed and revised for the purpose of Board expansion and the restructuring of duties.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 PM at which time 35 people attended the most interesting program by author Edie Clark, *New England: Myth or Reality*.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Kessler
Secretary