

Wilmot Historical Society
Minutes of Meeting held on September 8, 2014
Town Offices at 1 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Present: Nola Aldrich, Lindy Heim, Sue Finney, Liz Kirby, Julie Morse, Mary Fanelli, and Fred Ogmundson, and Marc Davis presiding.

Secretary's report – accepted with modification to date of annual meeting, which will be November 2.

Treasurer's report

Checking Account - \$8,703.21

Memorial Fund - \$5,230.92

CDs: \$20,949.85; \$10,017.44

Expenses to date: \$3,529.04

Member Count: 89

The \$10,000 CD is up for renewal and will roll over every six months. Marc suggested that when the \$20,000 CD comes due, we renew it for six months at a time as well.

New Business

Grant money – Marc

Marc said that he has been made aware of grants available to non-profits who earn less than \$250,000 a year. These are earmarked for small non-profits. Some discussion took place about making sure we take advantage of any of these grants in order to continue to put money into the building account towards the day when the WHS might be in the position to purchase the Town Office building. This led to discussion on what investment was made in 1976 when the WHS was started. Some of the furnishings in the town office were paid for by the WHS. Renting or leasing the building from the town was another idea that was discussed for future plans.

Hopkinton Cemetery Crawl – Lindy

Lindy asked if anyone was interested in going to the Hopkinton Cemetery Crawl Oct. 18 and 19. She has four tickets from Carol MacDonald. One or two people showed an interest and Lindy will bring the subject up closer to the event in October.

Curiosity Shop Summer Wrap Up - Lindy

More money has come in since the final day of the market bringing the total of monies earned close to \$2500. Most of the leftover goods went to the Danbury Grange for their Attic Treasurers sale at the Grange Fair. Other items will be consigned or stored for next year. 16 people donated items, and Lindy estimates that 14 volunteers donated over 200 hours of time this summer. Lindy's report will be attached to the hard copy in the files.

Preservation and Acquisition – Marc

One book of the Thompson diaries was given to Keene State archivists to scan as a project for students this summer. It will be done this fall when time permits.

Marc mentioned that the town would like to digitize all its documents in the vault in the town hall and he wondered if the WHS should think of chipping in if the town decides to buy a scanner that is capable of digitizing books. There was quite a bit of discussion about whether it is wise to buy a scanner or rent one, and if the WHS would get their fair share of time if they chipped in 1/3 of the cost. Marc is going to look into this further.

Mary was looking for the master collection lists on which she had assigned identification numbers for items in the current collection. Lindy suggested forming a "search party" to look through the cupboards in the history room.*

*The book was found after the meeting and put back into a locked file.

Web site updates - Mary Fanelli

The new design for the Web site was approved by those in attendance at the meeting and Mary will go ahead with registering the domain and changing the server to the Carnevale server. Mary will check to see what the suggested shortened url was for the site. The next part of the project is to design the software for the digital library that will be available on line.

Family Home Project – Marc and Sue

Marc suggested that this project might be a good subject for the Web site in that a page might be dedicated to the history of local families with pictures of their homesteads and whatever info is available on them. Some of the families mentioned for initial work were Thompson, Morgan, and Stearns.

Program – Fred

November meeting and cracker barrel will be on Sunday, November 2. Mary has reserved the WCA for the meeting, which will begin at 1 pm. It was suggested that Jack McAuliffe be invited to speak about his memories of Wilmot. Lindy and Liz had just interviewed him and said he has an amazing memory for a 90-year-old person.

February meeting has been scheduled for February 1. The program will be Civil War Songs performed by Woody Pringle at the WCA. May 3 was selected for the spring program, which will be on Eleanor Roosevelt in the years 1905 – 1945. Fred will make these arrangements. A venue was not selected.

Bicentennial Flag - Marc has a large 5' x 7' flag that was flown over the capitol in honor of our bicentennial in 2007, and Liz Kirby has agreed to get a special triangular holder for it. It has never been flown in Wilmot because it is too large for any of our flagpoles. The flag was given to the town by Paul Hodes, member of congress. The certificate that goes with the flag will be framed.

Report on the Veterans Memorial – Liz Kirby

Liz said she had spoken to Elizabeth Fielding whose family had donated money toward the trees that were planted at the memorial. A plaque was never made for the tree and Elizabeth has agreed to give us some text to go on a plaque that will be put on one of the trees. A plaque will also be bought to hang on the tree near the bandstand to indicate that it was planted in memory of Thelma Cuccinello.

Also, Liz turned over all of the financial documents and checkbook for the Veterans Memorial, which has a separate bank account, although it is part of the WHS. She is not able to deal with the heavy pavers that are still being sold and installed at the Memorial and asked that someone else take over this responsibility. The extra pavers are in the old town shed on Pedrick Road.

Liz also requested that the garden club take charge of planting some shrubbery on the west side of the Memorial. There are already white lilacs there. She hoped to have blueberries and winterberry to complete a red, white, and blue theme. She also asked that more mulch be put around the junipers that surround the memorial.

All items on the Action Item list were carried forward.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Fanelli in Judy Hauck's absence

The next meeting is October 6 at 1:30 PM in the Town Office