

February 2, 2009

Historical Society Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Nick Nikolaidis at 7:00pm in the conference room at the Paradigm Building.

Members in Attendance:

Helen Miller, Richard & MaryAnn Church, Rosella Leonard, Nick & Heidi Nikolaidis, Don Brown, Louise and Lorraine Putnam, Kevin Flynn, and Becky Farmer

Secretary's Report: The report was read and accepted

Treasurer's Report: n/a

OLD BUSINESS:

- A review of some unfinished business was discussed. Please see attached items. Most of these items were found in the minutes from meeting dating back to 2006. It was felt that further investigation into other unfinished business needs to be addressed at each meeting in an effort to complete as many projects as possible and not forget any if possible
- Donations: Ted & Shirley Nelson - \$50.00; Cynthia Moore - \$20.00; Patricia Gilman – 8 photo's from the 1950's. The Bethel Town Clerk Jean Burnham has contacted Nick about a cabinet full of Historical society items that was stored there by Irene Cushing. She would like us to come a get the cabinet and any other items belonging to the historical society. Nick brought in just a few items for the member in attendance to look at. These items were six treasurer's books for the Camp Brook Schools dating back to the 1800's. GW Plastics has donated an old machine for stamping checks and a ledger book dating from 1959 through the 1960's. Nick has asked Rose to send "Thank You" notes. He has provided the addresses.
- The Museum Curator – A motion was made to eliminate the position of "Museum Curator" and to dissolve the Collection Care Committee until further notice. A second was entertained. There was no further discussion. All members in attendance approved the motion.
- Jean Tewksbury McShea had contacted Nick looking the information at to the location of the Morse Family Farm on Camp Brook. Louise and Lorraine Putnam said this Farm was located where the Camp Brook Corner Farm was at the bottom of Camp Brook. Ms. McShea had contacted them several months ago. They had given her Jim Abbott's name and phone number as a contact person for additional information.
- Sandy Chadwick was looking for information as to the location of her grandfather's house. She sent an old photo hoping to aid us in identifying the location. Her grandfather's name was Clancy Chadwick. The photo looks like

- the house was on a hillside. Several members thought it may be on the street behind the Yellow Block. It was felt we should check with the Bethel Town Clerks Office. Helen thought the house had been taken down many years ago due to it being condemned.
- Nick has given Mary Floyd several Historical Society books to sell in her store. All members in attendance were in favor.

New Business:

- We have received an invitation to participate in the Ethan Allen Colonial Fair; June 20 – 21 in Bennington VT. It was voted not to attend.
- Postcard and History Fair – May 23rd at the WHS Gym. We need more volunteers to be in charge various events. There will be a variety of things going on this year. Bethel’s “Antique Road Show”, Flea Market, along with Postcard vendors, and Historical Displays. We need volunteers to co-ordinate and set up spaces for the flea market. There will be no charge for the vendors but we will ask if they make a profit to please give a donation to the BHS. Each vendor will be given a 10’ place. Card dealers - each will be provided a 6’ table and the charge is \$42.00. We currently have 6 postcard dealers wishing to participate with one currently paid. We also need someone to man our Historical Society table. They will be in charge of selling books, and other items, signing up new members and renewing old member.
- Safety Deposit Box at Mascoma. It was felt that we no longer need this box. The only item in it was the map to the location of the Time Capsule that is to be open in 2076. This decision was tabled until Kent gets back.
- Insurance – Nick has talked to the Poulos Agency in regards to our insurance policy. After having an appraiser look at the Fife we have insured for \$10.0k, and the fact that we have no documentation proving the authenticity of the item we needed to change the policy. Nick had talked to the Poulos Agency, who we currently have, about the coverage. They were able to give us a new policy which costs us \$451.00 per year without a special rider for the fife.
- BBA Business Expo – This will replace the Home and Garden Show of the past. The cost is \$60.00 for a space, early registration is \$50.00 by February 15th. The date of the event is March 7th, the time 9 – 4pm. At the WHS gym. A vote to participate was entertained and approved.
- With the Grand Opening of the Restored Town Hall tentatively scheduled for 2010, Kevin Flynn has come up with an idea make it a town wide celebration or a History Expo somewhat like Chester’s town wide Civil War Expo. This could be set up similar to what we use to do for the Forward Festival. More to come a future meetings.
- Mini History Expo- It has been suggested that we do our own history expo this year due to the VHS History Expo being canceled. It was decided to contact the surrounding area Historical societies, Stockbridge, Pittsfield, Rochester, South Royalton, and Randolph, to see if they would be interested in participating. The date for this planning meeting will be February 26th, 6:30pm at the Paradigm Consulting Building. Bring your ideas and excitement..

Special Programs –

- Gary Wood – August Cook Woodprint Program
- Jim Cook – Calvin Coolidge, John Quincy Adam, or Daniel Webster Programs. More information on the subjects can be found on: crankyyankee.com
- Any ideas for new speakers and/or programs are greatly appreciated. Please contact a BHS member or come to one our meetings and share your ideas. All are welcomed.

The meeting was closed at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted;
Rosella A. Leonard
2/2/09