

Newton Historical Society

Minutes of Dec. 9, 2024
Sargent Woods Community Center

ATTENDEES:	Karen O'Malley	David Simpson	Mary Riordan	Barb DiBartolomeo
John Meserve	Bill Landry	Roger Hamel	Marilyn Landry	Diane Morin
Kathy Meserve	Susan Peterson	Stan Duncan	Lindsey Dionne	Cheryl Simpson
Jane Hamel	Sally Woodman			

Dave Simpson called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

Secretary's Report – Dave Simpson

Bill Landry made a motion to accept the minutes from the December 2024 meeting. Marilyn Landry seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report – Bill Landry

The Money Market income was from interest and Christmas ornament sales. Expenses were Unitil (\$18.38), Primary Schoolhouse insurance \$487.00, and Archival supplies. John Meserve moved to accept the treasurer's report as written. Seconded by Mary Riordan, Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Current / Old Business:

- The donation of five containers of paper work and several metal Challises were accepted from the now defunct Newton First Congregational Church. After review of all of the paper work it was decided to dispose of all the materials. The metal challises will be kept and the proper forms will be provided to the Society Archivist.
- Dave Simpson reported that the barn at the Marshall House, which typically shows signs of animal infestation, appears to be under control thanks to the use of pet friendly sprays that he has used on several occasions.
- Repairs will be made to the Marshall House Cobbler shop and the railings at the Primary Schoolhouse Museum in the spring. Because of the deteriorating condition of the Cobbler Shop walls, windows, and roof, Dave and Bill will wrap the entire building in weather proof material for the winter. The vulnerable contents of the shop will be removed prior to the wrapping. Expenses related to the Cobbler Shop repairs will be paid by the town, which owns the Marshall House property.
- The seats of the two Hayford carriages that were repaired, are being stored in the Marshall House barn in a protective container to prevent damage from any "critters" that may get into the barn. With regard to these "critters", it appears that the anti-rodent protective materials David has been placing and spraying in the barn are working. We have seen no sign of rodents since the spraying was started.
- A discussion was held regarding the use of "Pay Pal" as a means of raising funds for the Society. David and Bill will look into this.

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New Business:

- In 2023 the Society donated \$613.82 to the Town of Newton's 275th anniversary celebration. This was the amount that was left in the bank account of the 250th anniversary celebration committee in 1999 and donated to the Society in 2023 by the that committee's Treasurer. Whereas this donation was not used for the 275th celebration, it was returned to the Society by the Town of Newton 275th celebration committee. These funds will be reported in the December Treasurer's report.
- Society members Susan Peterson and Stan Duncan, who were instrumental in the design and publication of the 275th anniversary booklet, submitted a check for \$450.00 which was revenue from the sale of the booklets. These funds will also be reported in the Society Treasurer's December report.
- Discussed the future of the Fall Festival fund raiser that has been held for 16 years. Since 2007 the festival has basically been the Society's only source of substantial revenue.

This year the festival yielded the lowest income, the lowest number of attendees, and the lowest number of sponsors since 2008. It was agreed that this year's festival would be the last.

Hopefully at our next meeting in April of 2025, we will be able to come up with some possible replacement activities to generate income for the society.

- Election of Officers and Dept. Heads for 2025:

President: David Simpson
Vice President: Karen O'Malley
Secretary: Position is open. Will ask for a volunteer at each meeting
Treasurer: William Landry

Curator: Lindsey Dionne

Diane Morin made a motion to accept. Seconded by Karen O'Malley. Passed by all.

- Board of Directors: (Five required by D.O.J.)

Dave Simpson, Karen O'Malley, William Landry, Lindsey Dionne, John Meserve

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Curators: See 1st item in Current / Old Business above

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COMMITTEE REPORTS (Cont.):

Historian: Roger Hamel.

In October, we received a request from **David Burzillo** of Lincoln NH. He was looking for information about **Warren Walker** who lived in Newton Junction in 1900. Specifically, he was looking for confirmation that this was the Warren Walker who was an engineer during the Boston and Maine strike of 1877. I was not able to provide any information for him. I referred the request to Karen O'Malley to see if there is anything in the museum that could be of interest to Mr. Burzillo.

In October, we received a request from **William Cashman**. He was looking for information on a postcard he saw on eBay regarding **Geishas** in Newton NH. He had no additional details. I was not able to provide him with any information.

In November, we received an inquiry from **Bruce Magnuson** of the **NH Center for Photography in Concord, NH**. He was looking for information for their project to try to photograph at least one structure in every town in NH that was built from 1825 or earlier. I sent Mr. Magnuson the information that Bill Landry had compiled in 2022 for a similar request from Marie N Sapienza of the New Hampshire Society of Photographic Artist. It turns out that this was a duplicate request and the organization has changed name.

Archivist: Karen O'Malley

- Nothing to report

PROGRAMS: Diane Morin & Sally Woodman

- Nothing to report

WEB SITE:

- Mary Riordan stated there was a marked increase in unique visitors to the website. There were 1,563 visits within 5 days in October and 898 in November. Typically, there are about 400 visitors.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

Next Meeting:

- Monday, April 14, 2025 at 6:00 PM at the Sargent Woods Community Center.

Dave Simpson adjourned the meeting at 7:08 PM. **And the Pizza arrived shortly after.**

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Landry

Interim Secretary