

Newton Historical Society

Minutes of April 14, 2025
Sargent Woods Community Center

Members present:	Bill Landry	Dave Simpson	Karen O'Malley	Barb DiBartolomeo
	John Meserve	Diane Morin	Susan Peterson	Stan Duncan
	Kathy Meserve	Roger Hamel	Ron Saunders	Cheryl Saunders
	Mary Riordan		Lyndsey Dionne	Sally Woodman

Dave Simpson called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

Secretary's Report: Dave Simpson made a motion to accept the minutes from the December 9, 2024 meeting. Bill Landry seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report:

March 31, 2025, activity and account balances.

The Money Market income was from interest. Expenses were for the electric bill. Kathy Meserve made a motion to accept the March 31, 2025, Treasurer's Report. Mary Riordan seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Old Business:

Repairs to Marshall House Cobbler Shop and Primary School Railings: Due to the passage of the default town budget, efforts to repair the Marshall House Cobbler Shop will be put on hold. The Cobbler Shop is the property of the Town of Newton, which will have other financial priorities during the current fiscal budget year. Bill Landry discussed this with Selectman Dan Guide. Dave Simpson stated that the Cobbler Shop has been made weather tight until further repairs can be considered.

New Business:

Email Issues: Dave and Bill reported that the folders in our Gmail inbox are missing all of their emails. Diane Morin volunteered to investigate the matter.

The Future of the Society, Financially Sustainable: Since there will not be a NHS Fall Festival this year, other fundraising options were discussed. Diane suggested charging a facility fee for the use of the Primary School House during the Newton Christmas Tree Lighting. Bill and John suggested sending letters to past donors; John agreed to do this, during the last quarter of the year. Another suggestion was to create a sponsor page on the NHS website to credit the donors.

Committee Reports:

Curators: Lindsey Dionne received a donation from Pat Estabrook of two Firefighters books and several paper documents.

Archivist: Karen O'Malley completed the accessioning process for the books but will finish the documents at a later time.

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Historian: Roger Hamel did not receive any requests during the first three months of the year. This month, he has received three inquiries. Sandra Kuzminski Buker requested information about her Great-uncle Joseph Guscora. Roger was able to locate property records for this man and forwarded the information.

Roger received a request from Lou Ann Cutaia pertaining to Alden/ Charles Alden Brown. She was looking to confirm his parents' names. However, Roger's research was unable to provide that specific confirmation.

Finally, Roger received a request from Greyson Arnold, which was meant for Newton, MA. Roger directed him to the Newton MA Historical Society.

Programs: Diane Morin reported that there were no new programs planned. She welcomed any suggestions from the membership.

Web Site Status: Mary Riordan reported the following website statistics:

January: 784 unique visitors, 928 # of visits, 2815 pages

February: 1166 unique visitors, 1440 # of visits, 4770 pages

March: 898 unique visitors, 1481 # of visits, 2739 pages

The increased numbers for February & March were due to people looking at the Fritz Weatherbee Shows at the time of his retirement.

Correspondence: None

Next Meeting: Monday, September 8, 2025, at the Sargent Woods Community Center. The December meeting will be held on Monday, December 8, 2025.

Dave Simpson adjourned the meeting at 6:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Meserve
Acting Secretary