

Newport Historical Society Minutes

Executive Committee

April 26, 2010

NHS Museum

This meeting was called to order by Cathryn Baird at 6:05 pm.

Attendees

Arnie Hebert Mary Lou McGuire Cathryn Baird Jackie Cote Todd Coull

1. Future Historical Society Meeting Procedures

From research conducted in an attempt to understand the past structure of NHS meetings, it has been determined that Newport Historical Society meetings have historically been run in an informal manner. The existence of past secretary reports are spotty. A discussion ensued regarding the current practices of similar Boards in the Newport community, resulting in the adoption of the following general meeting procedure for regularly scheduled meetings:

1. Presentation of historic program
2. Public forum: questions/comments from the public
3. Vote to accept the Executive Committee report

The Executive Committee has determined that the mission of the NHS would be better served by focusing meeting time on sharing and promoting Newport history. Business items will be discussed at Executive Committee meetings and the minutes of those meetings will be posted on the NHS website (www.newportnhhistory.org) and made available to the public at the NHS museum and Richards Free Library. Decisions requiring general membership discussion and vote per the NHS constitution will be brought before the general membership as needed.

2. Discussion regarding increasing the visibility of the Newport Historical Society

The need to educate the public of the far reaching Society activities was highlighted. An indication of this need is that several people lately contacted did not know who our officers are or that the Pier Bridge project was a Historical Society effort. Suggestions to better promote the NHS included exploring more visible signage, increasing historical society programs and historical evenings with Newport residents. Thanks were expressed to Larry Cote for the Newport Historical Society Minutes on WCNL and posting of historical pictures in the WCNL window. It was decided to focus the next newsletter on the history of the Newport Historical Society.

3. Museum Safety

Due to presentation of concerns by Arnie Hebert the Executive Committee discussed ways to make the Museum safer. The question of fire extinguishers and smoke detectors will be discussed with Ken Dennis. A cordless telephone with three handsets will be purchased. Other safety issues will be addressed by the Museum Committee and presented to the Executive Board.

It was also decided that during hours when the Museum is not officially open, visitors are welcomed by appointment only, and that two members of the Museum staff be present. When the lower door to the outside is unlocked, two Museum staff members must be present. If a member of the Museum Committee or Executive Committee is working alone, the downstairs door must be locked.

4. Resignation

Arnie Hebert tendered his resignation as Chairperson of the Museum Committee. The following motion was made by Cathryn Baird and seconded by Jackie Cote: I move that the Executive Committee accept the resignation of Arnie Hebert as Chairperson of the Museum Committee. Unanimously approved. Until another Chairperson is appointed by the Museum Committee, Cathryn Baird will assume the Chairperson responsibilities. Arnie will continue his work at the museum.

This meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Lou McGuire, Secretary