

# Newport Historical Society Minutes

July 12, 2010

Sugar River Bank Community Room

## Attendees

Members: Jackie Cote, Cathryn Baird, Mary Lou McGuire, Todd Coull, Christina O'Brien, Brenda Curtis, Dottie Collins, Larry Cote, Stan Sweeney, Dakota Sargent, Kevin Sargent, Paul Baird, Arthur Walsh, Allan McGuire, Ray Pammett, Shirley Andrews, William Andrew, Igor Blake, Peter Irwin, Nancy Parsinnen, Dick Gassett,

Guests: Connie Blaisdell, Diane Deckard, Philip LeBlanc, Mary LeBlanc, Bill Raineault, Roger Gonyo, Betty Gonyo, Gina Bruton, Don Bruton, Lester Rossiter, Elizabeth Rossiter, Liselle Griffin, Joshua Griffin, Bonnie King, Gerrie Black, David Black, Nancy Black

## 1. Call to order

President Baird called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

## 2. Program: North Newport: Yesterday and Today by Larry Cote

Many thanks to Larry Cote for presenting a very interesting program on historical sites in North Newport based on two historical postcards. Included were the Allen saw mill, Story's Store and Post Office, the Sibley Scythe Factory and Sibley home, the North Newport train depot, Corbin's suspension bridge, the highway covered bridge, Sibley Railroad covered bridge, the boathouse at the Sibley home, the Sugar River Mills, and Draper mills. Along with the "today" pictures he took of these sites went a lively discussion between members of the audience. During the research for this program he and Dr. Arthur Walsh made the discovery of a 14<sup>th</sup> railroad covered bridge in Newport. Attendance: 38.

## 3. Business Meeting

### A. Approval of Consent Agenda.

Motions to accept the Secretary Report and Treasurer Report for the June 14, 2010 meeting and Executive Committee minutes of July 1, 2010 were made and seconded, and carried by unanimous vote. Acceptance of the Secretary Report was moved by Larry Cote and Seconded by Paul Baird. Acceptance of the Treasurers Report was moved by Christina O'Brien and seconded by Dottie Collins. Acceptance of the Executive Committee Report was made by Jackie Cote and seconded by Paul Baird.

### B. Committee Reports

Copies of reports from the Website, Cemetery, Fundraising, Museum, Building, and Pier Bridge Committees were presented for perusal.

### C. Old Business

1. A motion was made by William Andrew to begin each meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag, and seconded by Jackie Cote. The vote carried, with 9 in favor and 6 against.

2. SCORE update. The Upper Valley SCORE representative Susan Davidson has met with members of the Executive Committee on two occasions. She will help us develop a business plan for the Society, to include long and short term goals.

After studying our financials and our Annual Report, she has determined we are in good shape. She will meet with us on an as needed basis to review and advise us on our business plan during its development.

#### D. New Business

##### 1. Museum Building

The opportunity to purchase the Nettleton House, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, as a new location for the NHS museum was presented to the membership by President Baird. It has been offered by ECON (Economic Corporation of Newport) at a price of \$25,000, at terms of \$5,000 up front with the remainder to be paid at no less than \$5,000 per year at 0% interest for five years. President Baird secured a letter from Dan O'Neill, town manager and president of ECON stating these terms. President Baird provided background regarding the deed and option on the Nettleton House which states that if it is not used as a museum then it reverts to the original donors. Larry Cote spoke in favor of purchasing the Nettleton House: it solves our current problems of no heat, no handicap accessibility, no bathroom facilities, and climate control for the protection of artifacts. Christina O'Brien added that it also has a security system in place. Ms. O'Brien also provided information on Courthouse Square and the benefit of monies available through grants for this building on the National Register. The building has a new furnace, sound foundation, and an assessed value of \$244,300. The NHS will retain use of the current site of the second floor of the Old Courthouse. President Baird reported there is about 2500 square feet of display space in this ready to occupy building. There are several compelling reasons for ECON to make this offer: it will preserve the historic nature of Newport, serves the desire of the Newport community, via current Master Plan work, to focus on historic preservation and restoration, and it will add to the historic value and integrity of the old "Courthouse Square."

Motion Ray Pammatt moved that "The Historical Society purchase the Nettleton House at the terms presented in the memo from Dan O'Neill, and that we let him know in fourteen days." Seconded by Jackie Cote. Discussion: Before President Baird asked for a vote, Jackie Cote read the names of members that were eligible to vote on this motion according to the NHS constitution. Arthur Walsh mentioned that purchasing the building over a term of five years will help to maintain our tax exempt status. Jackie Cote mentioned that we have \$4,189.87 in our building fund.

Vote: President Baird called for a vote, which was unanimously in favor of purchasing the Nettleton House.

##### 2. LCHIP Grant

A request for society permission to apply for the upcoming LCHIP (Land and Community Investment Program) grant was presented by President Baird. LCHIP will fund 50% of the requested amount, and the NHS would be required to provide 50% of that amount in cash or services in kind. The specific budget for this grant has not been developed as yet. This grant would help to pay for repairs to the Nettleton House, its purchase price, or furnishings.

Motion: Larry Cote moved that the Newport Historical Society apply for the upcoming (August 2010) LCHIP grant. Seconded by Paul Baird.

Vote: Unanimously approved.

##### 3. Grant Writer

President Baird proposed that we hire Catherine Hogan of Sunapee to write the LCHIP grant. Ms Hogan worked very successfully with the NHS previously on the Pier Bridge project. Jackie Cote provided background information regarding her work with Ms Hogan.

Motion: The motion to hire Catherine Hogan to write the LCHIP grant at a cost of \$500.00 was made by Larry Cote and seconded by Paul Baird.

Vote: Unanimously approved.

4. Signatory for LCHIP grant

Motion: The motion to give Cathryn Baird signatory authority to sign all documents required to apply for the August 2010 LCHIP grant was made by Larry Cote and seconded by Kevin Sargent.

Vote: Unanimously approved.

5. ECON Acknowledgement

President Baird reiterated that she would sign the acknowledgement form for purchase of the Nettleton House property and return it to ECON.

6. Corbin Bridge N-Char application

Jackie Cote informed the membership that she was contacted by Newport Finance Director Paul Brown in regard to the application of No-Char to the Corbin Bridge. He asked if the NHS had any funds to help the town pay for it, the total cost being \$6,800. Jackie reported that there is \$1100.00 currently in the Corbin Covered Bridge CD.

Motion: Jackie Cote moved that the NHS give designated Corbin Bridge funds to the town of Newport to help pay for the application of No-Char to the Corbin Covered Bridge. Seconded by Larry Cote.

Vote: Unanimously approved.

E. Announcements

1. Brochure for the Historical Societies of West Central New Hampshire

President Baird displayed the newest area brochure advertising the Newport Historical Society and the six surrounding towns of Croydon, Grantham, Plainfield, Cornish, Claremont and Enfield.

2. Jackie Cote read a list of over twenty major NHS accomplishments under the current leadership which include: raising over \$143,000 for the Pier Bridge project, computerizing museum procedures and accessions, publishing a quarterly newsletter, creating and maintaining the NHS website, the award winning "Newport Historical Minutes on WCNL, developing a substantial gift shop of Newport items, publication of two Newport historical books, increasing membership from 13 to 136 (including one junior member), the documentation of Pine Street West our oldest cemetery, and the sponsorship of an area Oral History workshop.

F. Public Forum

Larry Cote brought before the membership a correction of the vote to accept the April 19, 2010 Treasurers Report. Mary Lou McGuire made the original motion to accept the report and Dakota Sargent seconded. As Dakota is under the age of 18 and not eligible to vote on NHS issues, Larry Cote moved that we correct this vote with a new vote to accept the Treasurers Report of April 19, 2010 and it was seconded by Paul Baird. Unanimously approved.

4. Adjournment

This meeting was adjourned at 9:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Lou McGuire