

Newport Historical Society Monthly Board Meeting
Monday, May 9, 2016
The Nettleton House

1. **Call to Order** by President Cathryn Baird at 6:31 p.m.
2. **Members Present:** Cathryn Baird, Jackie Cote, Larry Cote, Jerry Hagebusch, Priscilla Hagebusch, Jayna Hooper, Rita James, Dean Stetson, Ann Stout.

Public Present: Stan Sweeney, Arnie Hebert
3. **Public Forum:** Arnie Hebert shared his commendations: the Newport Historical Society has come a long way! The museum looks great!
4. **Minutes** of the April 14, 2016 board meeting were moved by Jackie, seconded by Dean, and approved unanimously.
5. The **Treasurer's Report** was shared by Jackie Cote, with the following account summaries reviewed in detail:
 - i. Accounting Summary of 4/1/16 - 4/31/16
 - ii. Main Operating Account, Fiscal Year ending 9/30/16: *April 2016 Income and Expenditures were reviewed.*
 - iii. Nettleton House Account, FY ending 9/30/16: *April 2016 income/expenditures reviewed.*
 - iv. NHS Budget Comparison Operating Acct. – Income, 10/1/15-9/30/16: *April 2016 income reviewed.*
 - v. NHS Budget Comp. Operating Acct. – Expenses, 1/1/15-9/30/16: *April 2016 expenses reviewed.*
 - vi. NHS Budget Comp. Nettleton Acct. – Income, 10/1/15 – 9/30/15: *April 2016 sales/donation income reviewed.*
 - vii. NHS Budget Comp. Nettleton Acct. – Expenses, 10/1/15 – 9/30/15: *April 2016 building expenses reviewed.*

Jackie made a motion to **replenish the Artifact Purchase Fund** by transferring \$500 from Operating Funds into the Artifact Purchase Fund. Ann seconded this motion. Motion approved unanimously.

The balance of the museum alarm system has been paid, as well as \$185.00 for **Vermont Life Safety** to monitor the system for the first year.

The two \$5,000 **endowments** gifted to the NHS will be placed into 6-month CDs. Sugar River Bank's available interest rate of 0.21% will yield a slightly better return over Lake Sunapee Bank.

Priscilla made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report; Rita seconded; approved unanimously.

6. The **Museum Report** was given by Larry Cote.
Twenty-four visitors signed the museum guest book over the last month. Among the visitors were five members of the Sunapee Historical Society visited the NHS museum; SHS members were most interested in the NHS's **archive room**.

The museum was pleased to receive **4 donations**, totaling 20 individual items. **Five purchases** were made, among which was a candlestick phone light. The museum has been looking for a *bona fide* candlestick phone, and upon further discussion, it was suggested that the Kearsarge Telephone Museum may know of a possible source for such an item.

The museum will be replacing its current incandescent light bulbs with **LED lights**. The museum has (28) light fixtures total. Enough LED lights will be purchased so that *all* the lights in one room will be able to be replaced, *as necessary*. This method will enable the NHS to examine how the lights burn in each room. The goal is to ensure uniform color in each room.

Five new **rolling carts**, totaling \$395.51, have been purchased for the museum storage area.

The museum's new **alarm system** consists of security and low temperature units. The addition of a smoke detector that would call into the Vermont Life Safety system would cost \$80.11 per the museum's three wireless detectors, for a total of \$240.00, plus \$200.00 for installation and programming. If a relay could be added to the museum's existing smoke detectors, then the cost could be reduced to around \$300. A discussion ensued concerning the museum's ignition sources, which are minimal. While no decision was made concerning the additional installation of a smoke detector, it was determined that the museum's **fire extinguisher** must be checked, and an **evacuation map** drawn up in the near future. Vermont Life Safety will put the NHS museum on their list to check the fire extinguisher, and arrangements will be made to keep current with **best safety practices** as they are brought to NHS attention.

Larry has worked with the town clerk's office to select and digitally archive six town record books – a project that has been completed with the help of a \$10,000 grant to the Town. Six more books will be selected for a subsequent **digital archiving project**. Larry has also been working with the Town of Newport to find information about Newport Roads, dating back to the 1700s and 1800s. Such information will assist in current cases of road petitions.

Kudos to Larry for his recent commentary on **NHPR** concerning "Corbin's Park", Blue Mountain Game Preserve.

Arnie Hebert shared good news concerning his volunteer work on updating the index for Edmund Wheeler's, *History of Newport, N.H.*

7. The **Fundraising Report** was given by Jackie Cote.

50 new postcards, featuring photography by Beth Rexford, have been received from VistaPrint. Additional photographs featuring Pollard's Mills, the Corbin Covered Bridge, and aerial photos of Main Street are in the works.

The **Newport Farmer's Market** 2016 season will begin on May 20th. **Chamber Day** is scheduled for Saturday, June 18th. The Newport Chamber of Commerce's **Business After Hours** will be hosted by the NHS on Wednesday, May 11th, from 5-7 p.m., with hors d'ouerves prepared by Lee Dufort and Angie Stephens for a cost of \$325.

8. **Old Business:**

Jayna Hooper has completed work on the **Charles Emerson diary**. Emerson sailed around the tip of South America *en route* to the gold mines in California in 1852. A draft will be made available for the Business After Hours event. Before publishing, however, Jayna will look into copyright legalities that may pertain to some of the photographs used to illustrate Emerson's experiences. Andrea Thorpe at the Richards Free Library may be a good go-to source for copyright questions.

The **Jacob Wheeler diary** is complete. Jayna will make the few typo corrections necessary and then forward the final copy file to the Cotes to determine the best manner of printing in preparation for public sale of this item, hopefully for June.

Dean has continued his work on the **NHS website**: google maps have been added, as have committee lists and docent schedules. A Facebook link will also be added.

9. **New Business:**

Biddy Irwin has submitted her resignation from the NHS board. She will continue as correspondence secretary and docent. The board accepted Biddy's resignation with regret.

Jackie made a motion to accept **Stan Sweeney** as Biddy's replacement on the NHS board. Dean seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Upcoming programs will include a post card presentation by Larry in June. Steve Taylor, from the N.H. Humanities Council, may be available to discuss agricultural fairs and granges in July or August. Cathryn will be in touch with Paul Rheingold to arrange an event to honor Billy B. Van in the summer. Bruce Davison is scheduled to continue his presentation on the Claremont-Concord Railroad system in September. Other possible programs may include a presentation of the Charles Emerson diary, and the Finnish "Olympic" grounds behind LaValley Building Supply.

10. **Meeting Adjourned:** 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jayna H. Hooper, Secretary