

The Falmouth Historical Society Minutes

Falmouth Heritage Museum—July 2, 2019

The board meeting came to order at 6:40 PM. Present were David Farnham, Sue Farnham, Betsy Whitcomb, Ron Scorsone, Erin Cadigan, Rich Meserve, Sheri Fistal, and Fred Howe.

Secretary's Report

The May minutes were reviewed and approved.

Membership. There are 111 active members and 14 lapsed. Our pool of active members is stable with nearly all our members renewing each year (although some wait until the end of the year to renew). Our losses—several long term members passed away earlier this year—have been offset by new members.

Lifetime memberships. We still need to notify Hannah Russell and Mary Honan that they have been elected lifetime members. Sue will do.

Condolence notes have been sent to the families of Florence McCann (Jeanine Coleman), Richard Terhune (he did our audits for years) and Gretchen (Howard Reiche) honoring their recent passing.

Treasurer's report

The Society has a balance of \$1,773 in its cash accounts and \$24,317 with the Foundation. This is below where we expected to be.

June 30th marked the end of our fiscal year. Our total revenue was \$15,728 (including \$9,000 drawn from the Foundation) while our total expenses were \$18,931 leaving a deficit of \$3,203.

Our expenses ran \$2,782 above budget. The most significant variance was due to unexpected maintenance costs (heating and the new sign) and restocking merchandise. The furnace was under warranty, so we were not charged for the service call. Details are in the treasurer's report.

We have received another generous donation of \$1,000.

The board agreed that we need to have the credit card scanner available in the museum and when the Society has a table at outside events. Today many people

do not carry cash or checks. Enabling electronic payment should increase membership, donations and sale of merchandise.

Old Business

We will open on Saturdays from 12 to 3 p.m. for the months of July and August. Sue and Sheri will take this Saturday the 6th; Erin will do the 13th. We will need more volunteers for the remaining Saturdays. Erin will advertise.

Maintenance: Ron has a volunteer who is coming to paint: his dad is a professional painter and the volunteer will consult with him. He will be coming on Thursday. He will do door and trim first then back window.

Information Systems. Museum computers: Ron has gotten a current version of Windows running on the catalog computer but our license key isn't valid; we may have to purchase a new license.

Merchandise. Betsy has been speaking to the publishing company that produced our original cookbook and has given them the signed statement from Marge which will allow us to reorder. We can reorder the original 2004 cookbook for a minimum of 500 copies at \$3,000. We can add up to 10 new recipes at \$6 a recipe. It would be cheaper to put a new cookbook together as there are discounts for new books. If we do a new cookbook, there are other publishing options, which might be less expensive. Betsy will investigate.

Wayne Cobb donated a copy of his new book *Quakers in Early Falmouth and Portland, Maine 1740-1850*. He would like to have us sell it. We need to work out an arrangement with him.

Leland Hanchett donated a copy of his new book, *The History of Martin's Point and the Marine Hospital in Portland, Maine*. We will consider buying some of his books to sell.

Events. The Maine Historical Society's 'Magical History Tour' was a success for us despite the lack of signage to attract people touring the crypt. There was a steady stream of people coming in. Maps were the most popular purchase. David plans to write a thank you note for involving us.

Our table at the polls saw a steady stream of people along with some sales.

On June 14th, the book launch and celebration marking the restoration of Edward LaSalle's 1940 painting of Falmouth took place at Town Hall. 50-60 people were there as well as the LaSalle family. The book *Building Community* is available for free to anyone living in Falmouth. Copies are available here at the Museum as well as the library and Town Hall.

Erin has not gotten a response from the antique car people. A summer event is not looking likely.

A thank you note came from the high school students who visited the Museum; they especially enjoyed sitting in the fire truck.

Collections. There are two sets of the Northern Forecaster Archives: ours and the library's. The library's collection has never been formally accessioned or made available to the public. Nor do we know the details about what they have. We have years 1988-2006 minus 1992.

The Gorham Historical Society donated two copies of a 160 page booklet, *The Burning of Falmouth*. This was published by the Maine Historical Society to commemorate Maine Bicentennial.

The Danish/Lutheran ship is still in storage in the barn. Betsy will contact the Lutheran Church to see if they have an interest in it. Rich will check with Tall Ships. Would Maine Maritime Museum be interested?

Tidewater. Betsy and Sue attended the review of the Tidewater RFQ submissions on June 13 at Town Hall. A decision was made for the town to go ahead with doing an RFP. The town will cover the cost for this.

Outreach. Erin has been doing a wonderful job sharing items on Facebook.

Erin is putting together a newsletter to be mailed out to members without email addresses.

New Business

The Sunrise Café is decorated with photos from Freeport Historical Society. Erin suggested we consider doing something similar at a Falmouth establishment—a restaurant, bank or other business.

Jay Leno is coming to town this fall. He is an aficionado of antique vehicles. Could we get him to come over and see the fire truck? He might have ideas on what

groups might be out there who would help with restoration. It might even be appropriate for Go Fund Me!

Historic house plaques. Erin knows of someone who might be interested in doing this.

The meeting adjourned at 8:34.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Farnham
Secretary