

# The Falmouth Historical Society Minutes

## Falmouth Heritage Museum—October 1, 2019

The meeting came to order at 6:45 p.m. Present were David Farnham, Sue Farnham, Betsy Whitcomb, Ron Scorsone, Fred Howe, and Erin Cadigan.

### **Secretary's Report**

The September minutes were reviewed and approved.

Membership. There are 101 active members and 15 lapsed.

Correspondence. Condolence notes have been sent out.

### **Treasurer's report**

The Society has a balance of \$1,395 in its cash accounts and \$25,015 with the Foundation.

The Treasurer still has not heard from the IRS concerning acceptance of our tax returns from years past. They will not accept calls or correspondence until six months after submission, so we must sit and wait.

During the September meeting, the Board postponed a decision on the budget until October when everyone could be present for the discussion.

There are three options on the table.

1. Business as usual (\$18K): the Museum stays open through the winter.
2. A reduced budget (\$12K): the Museum closes in winter but is not shut down.
3. A minimized budget, (\$9K): the Museum closes in winter, systems are shut down, and we do not plow.

*The package containing the detailed budget proposals is posted separately.*

After much discussion, the Board voted to approve option 3. The Board made this decision with extreme reluctance. The number of visitors has been gradually increasing. We have been making improvements to the Museum within the limits of available funds. However, we cannot ignore our shrinking treasury and the high cost of keeping the Museum open in the winter.

## **Old Business**

Maintenance. The ramp and stairs look wonderful and the project is nearing completion. Many thanks to Ron, Fred and Ben Orcutt.

Ron will follow up with AAA (David Kelly) regarding the unusually high recurring maintenance costs of the furnace.

Collections. 19<sup>th</sup> century books were offered by Sally Farneth—we decided to accept 2 books out of 6 offered.

Betsy reports on a conversation she had with Andy Darling from the library. Andy is exploring how the library might assist us. She is hoping to create a link between our website and the library's. One of the library techs is going to a digitizing workshop soon and may be able to work with us on our digitizing project. Jeanne Madden is also supportive of this.

## **New business**

Annual Meeting. Tues 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m., at Town Hall. No nominations for the Board. David was asked to give a history-related talk at Falmouth by the Sea in October; he can give the same talk at the annual meeting. We have two vacancies on the Board vacancies.

Election Day. We will have a table at the polls. David will set it up and man it for part of the day

Bicentennial. Erin gave an overview of town plans to celebrate the State bicentennial. One idea is for FHS to hold a traditional supper which opened the question of whether we should uncover the Museum's bean hole.

The centennial anniversary of women's suffrage in Maine also takes place in 2020. Part of our state's celebration will be planting daffodils—something we can do at the Museum.

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Farnham  
Secretary