

Minutes of the Falmouth Historical Society Board Meeting Falmouth Heritage Museum March 6, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 PM.

Present were David Farnham (president/treasurer), Rich Meserve (vice-president), Sue Farnham (secretary), Betsy Jo Whitcomb, Fred Howe, Ron Scorsone, and Rick Parker.

Treasurer's report. At this time expenditures are \$1,100 below projected. The Archive IT bill has not yet come in. \$311 in deposits are in process. We have a balance of \$9080.36 in our operating accounts and \$32,197.63 with the Foundation.

Secretary's report. We now have 85 Historical Society members. 42 of these renewed in response to our January mailing.

The February minutes were approved by the Board, pending the confirmation of the Saturday hours we are adding in July and August.

Old business. The propane tank gage is now functioning properly. The technician service charge that resulted when we ran out of propane due to the company's delay of our fuel delivery in December has been reimbursed.

Building maintenance.

1. A door sweep had been installed on the back door and is working well. A gap remains on the right side of the door. About a 2 foot length of weather stripping is needed to close this gap.
2. Fred has installed temporary railings on the entry stairs and ramp
3. Fred also repaired the sump pump
4. He replaced and relocated the spotlights on the barn.
5. The "mouse highway" is not yet fixed. Thank you, Fred, for all you have done!

Tercentennial events. Erin was unable to attend tonight's meeting but has sent an update to us.

1. A DJ has been secured for the Sock Hop. Spencer Funk, a college freshman, is happy to do this for us. Erin does not believe he will charge us but we may want to offer him a stipend. The Board voted to give him a stipend of \$100.
2. Jeanne has organized the Sock Hop catering. OceanView will provide desserts and two kinds of punch. They will set up round tables and provide linens. The cost is \$385. They waived the cost of the rental room (which was \$300). Our grant from Falmouth300 was for \$400 leaving a net cost of \$15.
3. Ticket sales for the Sock Hop are up on the website. The price is \$8 for members and \$10 for nonmembers. Erin suggested offering original Hi Fi Club members a rate of \$.25. The Board approved this measure.
4. It was decided we will also offer tickets at the door. We do not have the capacity to take credit cards. We will accept cash or checks.
5. Denise Marconas of Community Programs has volunteered to help at the door.
6. Erin will bring balloons for decoration. She will also send us images of items in the collection from the Hi Fi Club that we might be able to print and use for decoration.
7. Marketing: a paid Facebook ad is currently running and getting some traction. An ad ran in the Shopping Notes last week and will run in the Forecaster this week. An additional Notes ad will run next week, and a final Forecaster ad will run the week of the event. These are part of the larger Falmouth300th ads listing all March events, but because there are so few March events, Erin was able to include a photo and give the event more space.
8. Other advertising:
 - a. The Sock Hop is on the Forecaster online calendar and the Maine Today online calendar.
 - b. OceanView included the event in their March newsletter.
 - c. Erin sent an email blast to some 250 Falmouth300 subscribers which included dance information.
 - d. Erin will do an email blast to our Wild Apricot database.
 - e. She will send a press release to the Forecaster and the Notes.
 - f. She will send a slide to run on Channel 2.

- g. She also sent a poster online to David who will forward it to everyone; once approved we can print and hang around town. Send any suggested revisions to her ASAP.

Digital Cataloging

1. Ron - discussion. Finalization of our catalog structure is still pending a meeting with Jeanne.
2. Betsy – we can start new catalog file with larger (5 x 8?) cards, and thus consolidate information that previously was on 3 small cards onto just 1 card.

Accessioning photos – Ron and Erin will discuss.

New Business.

Fred –

1. has noticed there are several trees that have come down on our land, and that they need to be taken care of. It was suggested that we contact the Cumberland Wood Bank to see if they would like to have these trees and would be able to remove them. Sue will make the contact.
2. Found a mouse nest with babies in the antique washing machine in the barn. There was a discussion about trapping them in a “Have a Heart” trap and relocating them vs. either evicting them or killing them. No decision was made by the Board.
3. Recommended we develop a plan for placing newly accessioned items in the barn, as space is filling up.
4. The driveway is becoming quite muddy with the recent thaw, especially near the barn. It needs regrading, drainage, and resurfacing. We could approach the town for recycled asphalt for resurfacing material after grading and drainage issues are addressed.

Betsy –

1. Ann Oleson Hall approached Betsy with her family’s desire to donate a 5 foot long model bark (4 masted ship) that her grandfather built. Her grandfather lived in Falmouth for a while, and then moved to NY where he likely built the model. The model is in storage at the Lutheran Church

of America in NYC. The church has inherited this from another church which no longer exists. It is a replica of the “William L. White” which was built in Bath in 1880. The Board discussed this, and felt that the connections to Falmouth were tenuous. Rich offered to talk to the “Tall Ship” people to see if there might be other organizations who would be interested in the model.

2. We would like to deaccession the Girl Scout dolls, which were donated by Dick MacKensie’s wife, who has since passed away. Fred has offered to contact Dick MacKensie’s daughters to see if they would like them. Sue Farnham will also discuss this with a friend who has been involved in Girl Scouts for many years.

Erin – Nathan Poore would like to inform us that the Town is going to be installing new wayfinding signage throughout the town. The Falmouth Historical Society will no longer appear on this signage. This is not in any way directed at the FHS—Mason Motz Community Center will not be included in the signs, and it doesn’t look like the library will be either. The decision to eliminate many of these places from the signage will save significant money—at least \$100,000—and make the signs less cluttered and more easily read and functional. This is not meant to be a slight in any way but a matter of prudent fiscal responsibility. In my opinion, the signs did nothing in the way of directing people to us. The only one I ever saw was at the corner of Woodville and Falmouth Road directing people down Woodville, but without an additional sign at Woods Road, it is useless. I followed it one day when we first moved here and never found the FHS. If you have any questions or concerns Nathan is happy to discuss them with you further.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Farnham, Secretary.