

Falmouth Historical Society Board Meeting

Falmouth Heritage Museum—October 2, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 6:43 p.m.

Present were Fred Howe, Ron Scorsone, Erin Cadigan, Betsy Whitcomb, Dave and Sue Farnham

Absent were Rich Meserve and Rick Parker

Secretary's Report

The September minutes were approved by the Board.

Current membership is 102. The number of members pending renewal this month is 41.

David and Sue need to get renewal packets out in the mail this month for those who did not renew online.

Treasurer's Report

Cash on hand is \$4,433.95. We have \$33,364.23 with the foundation.

We are waiting on a final cost for the sign. Obtaining Past Perfect, the cataloging system, is an upcoming expense of about \$1,850.00. Maintenance expenses incurred in September for power washing and staining and sealing the stairs and ramp are about \$220.00 plus a bit more for other supplies.

David has sent the W-9 to Melissa Tryon at Town Hall.

David is still working on the 2018-19 budget as well as the 2015-16 state and federal filings.

Old Business

Erin has the master for the membership brochures. She will price out getting these reproduced at VistaPrint; the minimum order is 250.

Fred suggested that we make up a sticker for the door window stating our office hours. The Board unanimously agreed.

Catalog. Connecting the donated desktop we will be using for cataloging to the network will require an adapter which cost \$28.00. Questions were raised about how we will backup data from Past Perfect. Two board members use Carbonite, a cloud backup service. Their service for multiple computers would cost \$288 per year to backup both desktops and the laptop.

Maintenance. Ron has purchased stain and sealer for the deck. Fred has purchased the PVC for building the railings.

Replacement sign. The company is looking for a vector image of the logo. We hope to get the new sign in before the ground freezes.

Driveway maintenance. We will plan on getting this done in the spring. We will need to get our "homework" done on this in the winter.

Falmouth 300. The West Falmouth tour was sold out and went well. The repeat tour is sold out and there is a waiting list. It is noted that historic tours of Falmouth are popular.

We presently have no new information on the cemetery presentation.

The Police Dept Open House will be October 27th. We will extend the fun by being open from 11:00-3:00 and having treats for the children. We plan to make the Museum festive with balloons, pumpkins and whatever else we can put together.

Annual meeting. Wayne Cobb, Marge Devine and Larry Dyhrberg have agreed to do a panel discussion on their Falmouth historical research. Potential questions will be each person's areas of research, what's been most surprising to them, etc. We will keep this to about 45 minutes after the business meeting. Betsy will check on the availability of a projector. We plan to do an email blast on our website and place announcements in the Shopping Notes and the Forecaster. Sheri Fistal has agreed to be a candidate for the board.

A painting of a postcard picture of Underwood Springs will soon be on display at Town Hall. The picture is owned by the family of the artist.

As Rick is not here tonight, we do not have an update on the potential work on the fire truck.

Carol Hall will be coming here with the ship model next Monday. Rich will receive it from her and store it temporarily in the barn while arrangements are made for it to go to its permanent home.

New Business

This past Monday we received a donated plat map done by Sanford Map Company in 1924. It originally came out of Town Hall some years ago when they were cleaning out unwanted items; it was given to a member of the donor's family.

David is working on a new section on the FHS website dealing with researching family history in Falmouth. We need to inventory what town hall has for records; e.g., old tax books. Per Betsy most of the records are in the vault downstairs.

Betsy was recently given a picture of West Falmouth with all the houses labeled with family name done by a member of the Wilson Tavern family. They also sent a lot of articles on West Falmouth and the businesses there as well as ads announcing places for sale in the 1800s.

Carol Kauffman brought us articles about the installation of the statue in honor of the Abenaki chief Polin.

It has been reported that Maren Forsythe of Wilmington (Massachusetts) just bought the Bucknam Tavern from her mother, Jane Forsythe, who had grown up there.

The Board unanimously agreed to not open on Columbus Day.

We have an established collections policy. Interest was expressed in reviewing the policy in light of the upcoming effort to catalog our collections and potentially deaccession donated items that don't comply with the policy. We need to research the ethics about how we would do this.

The Board agreed to have a table at the election. The gym will open at 1:00 p.m. Monday for set up. Fred has volunteered to do this. We plan to man the table from 10:30 a.m. until closing. We will have membership flyers, and some of the items from our store to sell.

The volunteer fair has a tentative date of November 4. We will be participating again this year.

The meeting was adjourned 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Howe Farnham