

The Falmouth Historical Society

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Zoom Meeting—February 1, 2022

The meeting came to order at 6:40 p.m. Present were Betsy Whitcomb, Carol Kauffman, David Farnham, Ron Scorsone, Sally Farneth, and Sue Farnham.

With the Board meeting taking place only a fortnight after the annual meeting, many of the committees had “nothing significant to report.”

President’s Remarks

Annual Meeting. David thanked the Board for bringing off a successful annual meeting. Erin would have been pleased to see us start and finish right on time. A quorum of the membership was present to approve the Bylaws actions.

We accomplished everything we were supposed to do. Between the business meeting and the two presentations, we showcased what we are doing and our value to the community.

Thankfully, there were no technical glitches, but Rich gets to drive the Zoom session next year. Assuming we meet in person, we will probably hold a hybrid meeting to accommodate those who prefer to attend remotely. A few members called or emailed to let us know they enjoyed the meeting.

Organizational Meeting. David reminded the Board that the first Board meeting after the annual meeting is the organizational meeting during which goals are set. We last set our goals in January 2020 just before life was upended by the pandemic. We have made progress on those goals, but they were preempted by other, more urgent demands that were heavy lifts in terms of volunteer hours. Looking at the current goals and objectives, they reflect our priorities today. A few can be closed. Others need tweaking. This was followed by a discussion of the goals. David will update the current goals, incorporating the comments made during the meeting, and bring them back to the Board at the next meeting.

Carol suggested that it was also time to look at the Bylaws. Since she had been instrumental in developing the current Bylaws, David asked Carol if she would lead the effort and she agreed.

Secretary's Report

Minutes. The minutes for the January and annual meetings will be distributed for review before the next meeting.

Membership. Our active membership is 90.

Treasurer's Report

Finances. The Society has a balance of \$11,553 in its operating accounts and \$15,871 with Maine Community Foundation. Our accounts payable is \$172, and sales tax payable is \$30.

David was embarrassed to report that the operating account balances presented at the annual meeting and in the annual financial report overstated the balance of the Museum Savings account by \$1,720. The balance had been taken from Norway Savings but sometimes there are posting delays either at the bank or in QuickBooks. He didn't notice the discrepancy until preparing this month's financial report. The error affected the liquidity report and the balance sheet.

Committee Reports

Programs. Rich was delayed and unable to attend. David shared what Rich had learned about scholarships from Falmouth Schools. There was a consensus that using the schools' process is the way to go, in part because they know the students. There was a discussion about the challenge of crafting criteria that reflect the values of Perkins family and, especially, Marion Perkins. David said he would assemble what we had and distribute it to the Board. There are still questions about the schools' process.

Museum Operation & Exhibits. Nothing significant to report.

Collections. Nothing significant to report.

Local History. David reported that we responded to seven queries from the community during the past month. He added that our work helping members of our community discover their family stories makes us feel like history detectives. This time, one query involved real detectives: a brutal murder in Falmouth sixty-three years ago that is still unsolved.

Recently there has been a steady stream of queries about homes on Falmouth Road that once belonged to Merrills. The descendants of James Merrill had a huge footprint along Falmouth Road between Woodville and Lunt during the 18th & 19th centuries. Many of the homesteads were carved out of larger tracts. Several years ago, the local history committee identified the colony of Merrills on Falmouth Road as worthy of a major research project due to the large size of the family, their land, and their impact on the town. We don't have volunteer resources to undertake such a large study but, in practical terms, we are doing the work one house at a time as requests from the community roll in.

Communications. Now that the annual meeting is behind us, it is time to get cracking on the newsletter, annual report, and tax letters.

Merchandise. Nothing significant to report.

Museum Buildings & Grounds. Nothing significant to report.

Technology. Nothing significant to report.

Development. Nothing significant to report.

New Business

There being no new business, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Suzanne Farnham, Secretary