

Minutes for the Franklin Historical Society Meeting  
4 November 2021

Program: “**NH Bureau of Historic Sites**” with guest speaker Andrew Cushing, Director of the Bureau (Mr. Cushing was unable to make it at the last minute – sent his slides and script to Leigh Webb, who presented the program, well and ably, in Mr. Cushing’s absence.)

Refreshments provided by Rita Norander and Charles North

Business meeting called to order at 8:05pm:

Salute to the Flag led by John Benham

Moment of Silence for departed members

Secretary’s Report (online draft): Motion made by Annette Andreozzi; seconded by Rita Norander, that the October minutes be accepted with amendment, adding a thank-you to Cyndy Campbell, Sandra Burney, and Maureen Aube for refreshments. *Motion passed.*

Treasurer’s Report – none available; treasurer not present.

**Old and/or Continuing Business:**

Committee Reports:

Building -- Leigh (now the only member of this committee) —Inspection of the crawlspace and sill of the north face of the Webster House done by Leigh, noticing damp ground within 6 feet of the front foundation; Eradication of mildew on north side of the building before snow; possible French drain, fill in cellar window may be needed at some point; THANK YOU to Rita Norander for dusting and vacuuming.

FaceBook update— Karen – many queries and comments in the last month. One was about the race track in West Franklin built in 1964/65; it was shared that this was built by Glenn Morrill’s father’s cousin and is now a City owned sand/gravel pit. Steve Foley, who is one of the administrators on the Facebook page, although moved to Utah, has replied to questions posed by the public on our Facebook page – his input from afar is well appreciated!

Education —Chris Lewis not present – Leigh reported that 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Webster presentation—still no date set, dependent on Covid protocols, and currently the middle school has several cases.

Curator—New additions from donors: **John Benham** a C.P. Stevens Co. advertising card which once sported a thermometer, a 1977 Trumpeter with an article on the Sidney Holmes tennis tournament, a hard-bound book “Memorial Addresses for Cyrus A. Sulloway” from 1919, a 1978 booklet “One Hundred Years of Griffin Hacksaw”, and an 1880-1890’s scrapbook from Swanzey, (which will be mailed to the Swanzey Historical Museum with *their* gratitude); from **Annette Cain** a pre-1967 (before phone numbers went to seven digits) unused Garneau Co. sales slip, and as a pass-through for donations from **Kim Barbosa** including a 1991 Citizen newspaper with articles on the discovery of framed portraits of 19th century city leaders (now hanging in the Society’s front parlor) in a forgotten storage area under the stairs in city hall, and an article on the approval of a “Shopping Mall Plan”, plus a postcard of the Republican Bridge; from **Linda Pauwels** her usual additions of interesting newspaper articles and Franklin related obituaries; from **Christine Reeder McAllister** a poster card of views of the Republican Bridge with the poem by Alice Shepard immortalizing the span, and seven vintage postcards from the area; from **Donna Savage** (via **Kathy Fuller**) a framed map of what appears to be an 1893 summer housing/hotel development proposal for Webster Lake called “Webster Park”; from **Zarne Whiting** a “glass” brick from the “Top O’

Town” bowling alley, which later became the Steenbecke Lumber Co. before being demolished and replaced by the CVS Drug Store; from **Diane Seamans\*** a vintage Acme dress form, size B (the Society has a size A, now we have a matching set!); and then, a discovery hidden in a Annual Hospital Report from Bill and Lynne Burns—a black and white snapshot from 1955 of Bill’s childhood home on Babbitt Road!

Printing of (100) postcards of ten different views and (30) Webster Lake maps for sale (\$400 profit potential) from J-T woodcuts still at shop; Framing of hand drawn maps of mills: one rec’d. New member Yama Ploskonka is a printer, and would like to be involved in this project.

Lisa Martin re: possible donations to the Martin Memorial--no update  
Projects update—Karen Darling’s project for historical marker; probably no further progress until next summer, when she is out of school.

Continuing discussion—Video record of meetings?

Volunteers for Labor Day weekend: Thank you to Karen Darling for garden clean-up!

Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> Holiday Season Dinner: 4:00-7:00pm at Thompson Hall. Turkeys are being cooked by Annette and Glenn. Leigh will provide garlic mashed potatoes and make Carlton Ham’s (our departed former treasurer) famous punch.

### **New/Other Business:**

Closing of the Easter Seals Recovery Center (Farnum Center): Heat for our building has been promised. All buildings are heated through one steam plant. Temperature sensor will be checked regularly by Leigh. Security? We use “SimpliSafe”—alarm is not always reliable, have fire and motion detectors. Ideas for the future?

Email charge: Dan Darling has researched update from GoDaddy, and our options. Decision is that it is best to stay as we are currently.

Ink cartridges for Epson printer offered to members for free. (from Leigh, who needed to purchase a new printer recently.)

Signage on Rail Trail: Cyndy’s friend recommends placing a permanent sign further up on the trail, encouraging bike riders to stop ahead. Currently, Leigh hauls a sign (to where rail trail crosses our road), whenever museum is open, and back again afterwards.

1893 Map of Old Beach in Newsletter: Some discussion of where this is; Glenn confirms this is in the Griffin Beach/Smiling Hill area, where a hotel would have been, with the original idea of having a “Webster Park” there.

Stevens Mill Project: It was noted that Jim Aberg is looking for photos (especially of the interior) of the Stevens Mill. Leigh noted that Service Credit Union had wallpaper made from framed photos lent them by the Historical Society – suggestion made to Jim.

*Last meeting of 2021: next scheduled regular meeting will be the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday in April, 2022*

Meeting adjourned at 8:38pm

Minutes by Karen Darling, Recording Secretary