

Ira Historical Society Meeting
January 18, 2017 @ 6:30 pm
Ira Town Office

In Attendance: Daland Potter, Lew Hoffman, Jerri Hoffman, Melanie MacDonald, Regina Buffum, Alta Johnston, Jean Kirbach, Ellen Lloyd, Allyn Kahle, & Shona Marston

Daland called the meeting to order at 6:42 pm.

The minutes from the 9/28/2016 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Melanie and Allyn reported that they had visited the Ira Central School and did not find any school records in storage there; however, found that there were very old church records. A few old school books were retrieved and these are now upstairs in the Town Hall.

Alta reported she had found the documentation by Harriet Kenyan (former teach of the Ira Central School) of the history of properties and families and will share this.

In the absence of the Treasurer, Jerri reported that the checking account statement as of 12/31/16 showed a balance of \$565 with one check of \$525 having been written.

Lew had received a letter from the Vermont Historical Society in which they were soliciting financial support for renovations that will take place early in the year with an exhibit gallery being the heart of the renovations. The letter was requesting a \$250 gift from the Ira Historical Society in support of this expansion. Melanie read the letter aloud. Discussion of whether the Ira Historical Society should make such a financial gift ensued. It was felt that since the Ira Historical Society is just newly organized and getting established that it should not use a portion of its limited funds for this purpose. An anonymous donation of \$250 is being made on behalf of the Ira Historical Society to the Vermont Historical Society.

Lew had put together an example of a display board outlining Ira school houses to demonstrate what could be done as an exhibit piece in the future.

Lew provided an update of the website. Areas discussed were:

- Susie's Peak and airplane crash in 1976
- Wildlife in Ira
- Famous people in town
 - o General Leonard F. Wing was born in Ira and lived in what is now Paul and Ruth Meigs' home. He was a lawyer in Rutland City. There are signs and streets commemorating General Wing around the Rutland area.
 - o Simon L. Peck (Regina mentioned that he had married a Weaver)

- Nicholas Powers - a bridge builder

Shona questioned research of the Underground Railroad and old houses, such as the Wragg's house. No additional research has been done here.

Lew mentioned the possibility of putting up signs for historical sites such as the Brookside School.

There was discussion of obtaining lockable display cases for storing historical artifacts. Alta mentioned John Franzoni auctions or checking out discount furniture places.

Melanie mentioned that the Historical Society would have to purchase its own insurance to cover artifacts.

The next meeting is scheduled for **March 29th, 2017 at 6:30 pm** at the **Town Office**.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerri Hoffman
Secretary