

Ira Historical Society Meeting
May 8, 2019 @ 6:30 pm
Ira Town Hall

In Attendance: Bob Kirbach, Lew Hoffman, Jerri Hoffman, Allyn Kahle, Ellen Lloyd, Fran Lloyd, Lisa Hartman, Crystal Hartman, Chris Hartman, Alta Johnston, Tim Perry, Bill and Di Whiteman

Bob Kirbach called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Tim Perry spoke to the group about a possible means of getting Wi-Fi to the Town Hall using an Ubiquiti Laser to piggyback off the town's internet connection. This would have to be approved by Select Board. Hardware alone would be in the order of \$600 and it would be necessary to set up wireless access points on either end at about \$100. It is too far a distance to consider a router. He addressed the pros/cons of a repeater. He felt that for a total investment of \$800 Wi-Fi could be available at the Town Hall.

Wi-Fi at the Town Hall is not a decision or investment to be undertaken solely by the Historical Society.

The minutes of the 4/3/2019 meeting were read and approved

Bill Whiteman provided a financial statement from inception to date. Closing bank balance as of 5/7/19 is \$1471.27. The financial statements were accepted as reported. Bill also indicated that the 2018 tax returns had been filed.

There was discussion on scheduling a work day upstairs to clean but since work on the upstairs windows is to be done soon, it was felt that it would be best to move everything into the center of the room and not spend time cleaning until a later date. The date of the windows work is not scheduled as Jim Moore has not yet been approved as historical preservationist.

Bob Kirbach will contact Bob Toppin to let us know as soon as they have a date for working on the windows so that we can plan to move all cabinets, etc. away from the windows.

Allyn reported that research has been done on the history of the Town Hall. In order to do put up an historical marker, a write-up has to be done and must be approved by the Select Board. Placement of the marker should be as close to the site it marks as possible and at least 200 feet from any adjacent roadside sign. It was felt that the Select Board should be advised that this is being pursued; the next board meeting is 5/21.

Allyn and Lisa were designated the Marker Committee.

All felt that the Charles Fish presentation was very successful; publicity worked and brought in members from other historical societies as well as local residents.

Bob reported that Nora Rubinstein of Middletown Springs is an expert on old spinning wheels. Bob met with her and showed her the one we have upstairs. She indicated that the first step in restoring this would be to clean it. Once cleaned, we should decide on the level of restoration. Bob indicated he will clean. He feels that as a historical society our role should be to curate and display. It was felt that Nora Rubinstein would be a good resource for presenting on looms and weaving.

Lew presented information on the status of the website. The website is now secure with SSL. The current contract with GoDaddy expires 1/20/2020. To continue as is would cost an additional \$900 for a five-year contract. GoDaddy has a newer version called GoCentral which would cost less (\$600 for a five-year contract) but does require rebuilding. Lew had looked at this option but didn't like the new interface. It was felt that there are much less expensive website options available and we should investigate further.

Lew also presented ideas on possible future presenters/entertainment. Jeanne Marie Raiche would be very interested in speaking about the history of ABC Stables and would be willing to do this any time. Lew also mentioned someone providing a history of the Ira Fire Department. He also suggested entertainment such as folk artists, Dana and Susan Robinson.

There was further discussion on the next presenter. It was moved that we would schedule our next presenter in September date dependent upon presenters availability with Yvonne Daley, author. Ilene Blackman had indicated that she would be willing to contact Yvonne as they are personal acquaintances. Jerri will contact Ilene.

Should Yvonne Daley not be available, we will contact the "quilt lady", Michele Pagan, textile conservator.

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, August 7, 2019, at 6:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerri Hoffman
Secretary