

IRA Historical Society Meeting
March 30, 2016 @ 6:30 pm
Ira Town Office

In Attendance: Daland Potter, Lew Hoffman, Bob Toppin, Regina Buffum, Melanie MacDonald, Alta Johnston, Jerri Hoffman, Allyn Kahle, Bob Kirbach, Jean Kirbach, Ellen Lloyd, Jim Moore, Teresa Mound, Shona Marston

Daland called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

The minutes of the January 27th meeting were read by Jerri Hoffman and accepted as submitted with the one notation that Melanie MacDonald had attended the January meeting but was inadvertently omitted as an attendee in the minutes.

Lew Hoffman distributed name tags for attendees and took names of those individuals for whom he did not have name tags and will create for future meeting.

Lew has been researching hats and t-shirts to promote the historical society as well as to use possibly as fundraising. Lew had been getting quotes from on-line resources and the consensus of the group was that local businesses such as Keith's or Initial Ideas be used if this is pursued further. Also, it was agreed that individuals would need to indicate their interest in purchasing rather than having inventory on-hand. Shona suggested the idea of developing a logo for the historical society.

Lew has received an estimate from Awesome Graphics for the cost of a "Founders" sign and passed around a printed sample of the layout of the sign. The sign size would be 2'x1' for interior display.

Neil Lincoln had about 15 wooden chairs stored in his barn that had been at one time used in the Town Hall. These chairs have been cleaned and are now stored upstairs in the Town Hall.

Daland enthusiastically discussed an article written by Charles Fish which Lew will be adding to the website in the near future. This article about early history of Ira discusses politics, religion and analyzes the pictures and gets into personalities of ancestors.

Ira School maintenance repair: Jim Moore will donate time and materials to replace shingles that are leaking and is waiting go ahead from Town Clerk related to insurance.

There was also discussion on entryway repair and the involvement of Preservation Trust and how tied to Preservation Trust if they become involved. The building is a National Historic Building. There was discussion on follow up with Preservation Trust and it was left that Lew would contact Scott Newman and ask that he attend the May 2nd select board meeting so that the select board has an opportunity to have their concerns addressed directly.

Lew showed orthophotographic maps of the Riverside Cemetery and the Town of Ira which he obtained from the Rutland Regional Planning Commission for future display.

Lew shared with the group the rendering of the Edwin Church painting of Ira Mountain. There was discussion as to the location of the mountains in the painting with many thinking it was Herrick Mountain.

There was discussion of group use of the upper level of the Town Hall. Bob Toppin indicated that a Town Hall Committee meeting is scheduled for 6:30 on Wednesday, April 6, and all are invited to attend. Bob indicated that the committee reports to the select board and mentioned work that has been done to the building....chimney liner, new furnace, and mentioned the grant that allowed the paving of the parking lot and the installation of the solar lights. There are many additional items on the list to be done....brick work, handicap ramp, redo floor, upstairs wiring.

Regina mentioned that she has had individuals inquire about donating to the Society and discussion ensued about the Society not being officially established until funds are available in October after taxes have been paid.

Bob Toppin brought up the subject of keeping the historical society funded in the future. The dues that have been set are not going to cover ongoing costs and we will need to consider future fundraisers.

Bob also mentioned that the Cemetery Committee will be organizing a work day this spring and encouraged participation as there is a lot of history in the cemetery.

The next meeting of the Ira Historical Society was scheduled for Wednesday, **June 29th**, at 6:30 pm at the Town Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerri Hoffman
Secretary