

Ira Historical Society Meeting  
September 27, 2017 @ 7:00 pm  
Ira Town Office

In Attendance: Daland Potter, Lew Hoffman, Jerri Hoffman, Melanie MacDonald, Allyn Kahle, Regina Buffum, Ellen Lloyd

Daland called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

The minutes from the 6/28/2017 meeting were read. Additionally, in the Treasurer's absence, Jerri reported that there a balance of \$655 in the credit union account.

Dues were collected from Allyn and Melanie.

Copies of the latest revision of the brochure were passed out for member review. Several additional photos had been added from the initial version. All seemed satisfied with the brochure and it was determined that an initial printing of 50 copies would be made so that members will have them to pass out at events and a supply will be kept at the Town Office for anyone interested.

Lew showed the IRVHS website and also reviewed the New Day Farm website. Lew also shared pics that were taken from a visit to the Vermont Historical Society in Montpelier. Town displays are currently booked two years ahead. The question arose as to whether a Town could reserve a spot and then prepare the display. The Vermont Historical Society personnel suggested perhaps smaller Towns share a space. Ellen mentioned the uniqueness of one-room schools and how she felt today's students would be interested in such a display.

Allyn suggested a meeting be held upstairs at the Town Hall.

The Chittenden Historical Society has a meeting on October 10 at which Civil War Historian Howard Coffin will be speaking. Members of the Ira Historical Society have been invited to join them for a potluck at 6:00 pm prior to the 7:00 pm presentation. **Note: This event was subsequently cancelled and may be rescheduled in the spring.**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerri Hoffman  
Secretary

. Jerri mentioned that Lew and Karen had researched the Site Map for the website which was a task from the previous meeting. The version of the Go Daddy software used to develop the website does not provide this functionality. Streamlining the menu selection is an area that will be reviewed for easier browsing of the website.

Lew and Jerri have created an informational tri-fold brochure on the historical society. Copies of the brochure were passed out for review and input from others. It was felt that perhaps adding more pictures to fill some of the white space would be helpful. Fran suggested bringing actual pictures along with the brochure to Staples to see how they might be able to manipulate and enhance the images. One copy of the brochure was printed on green paper and it was felt that the green was a good choice for the brochure.

Lew brought an informational display board that he has put together on the Ira one-room schools. He has put this together as a sample of a possible display at the Vermont State Historical Society. Those present felt that the size of the display was good and very readable. A visit to the Vermont State Historical Society will take place in order to get a feel for sizing of displays.

Quotes have been received by the Select Board for the maintenance items for the Town Hall. Work on the window frames and the front door has been approved. Moving and replacement of the electrical breaker box was estimated at a cost of \$1200 with \$6000-\$9000 estimated to update the wiring upstairs including ceiling lights and outlets. There are no plans to address electrical at this time.

Lew shared that he recently attended an event in Castleton the subject of which was the use of slate tablets in schools which he found very interesting. The presenters were from New York State and would be happy to present to our group if we wish to have them at some point in the future.

Lew recently received a video of a PBS documentary by Ken Burns "Horatio's Drive" which documents the first transcontinental road trip in 1903. Lew has added an informational link on the website. This also prompted discussion of early snow plowing methods.

As we are at the end of the fiscal year and dues are paid on an annual basis, dues were collected from those present.

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Respectfully submitted,

Jerri Hoffman  
Secretary