

FRANKLIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Regular Meeting Minutes

April 7, 2016

Venue: Webster/Tay House – 7 pm

Program: "Getting Started on Your Family History" with Steve Foley

The Business Meeting was called to order by Leigh Webb, President, at 8:14 pm

Salute to the Flag – Led by Chris Lewis

Moment of Silence for Departed Members – including Diane Pessa, who passed away in March

Secretary's Report – The November 2015 minutes (from our last meeting before winter break) were circulated. Elizabeth Jewell moved to accept the Secretary's report. Chris Lewis seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – Carlton Ham passed around copies of the Treasurer's report. Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Linda Pauwels, seconded by Elizabeth Jewell. Motion passed.

Old and/or Continuing Business

Election in May for Board and Officers – The Board held its annual meeting Feb. 16. Three members' three-year terms were up: Chris Lewis and Steve Foley will continue; Mark Bussiere, Vice President, is stepping down. Leigh Webb suggested Andy Nadeau for this opening, and will talk with Andy.

Field Trip Suggestions – Several places were suggested by the Board as possible outings for members, probably one day in August:

- Frost Farm, Weeks Estate, Franklin Pierce Homestead, Wentworth-Coolidge Estate (all NH State Parks); Augustus St. Gaudens (NPS); London Historical Society.
- New suggestion: Potter Place – site of Fair on Sunday, Aug. 7 (conflicts with Franklin Alumni weekend -- Historical Society has commitments)

Committee Reports

Building -

- **Insurance**
 - To cover contents (i.e. "renter's insurance")
 - Would need independent appraisal + insurance company's appraisal
 - Question: how would one set a value – 90% of donations are irreplaceable. Some items could be, i.e. \$3/postcard, \$1/button.
 - Suggestion: Check with other Historical Societies, to see how they handle insurance on items – Leigh will do so
 - \$700 due in August
- Vinyl siding removal – to be continued

Museum/Collections (Curator's Report) – Donations received this winter included:

- Two (2) filing cabinets from town of Gilmanton, courtesy of Annette Andreozzi
- Anonymous, small tin box (found in a house in Franklin), with photos from 1910s-1940s of one family, no names, not known if from Franklin.

- Inventorying of archive donations now *up to date* – congratulations to curator, Annette!

Recipe Book Project – committee hopes to meet again soon

Roster Update and Membership Dues –

- E-mail with reminder of annual dues went out recently
- Karen Darling to send e-mails to all last year’s members to see if there are any corrections to contact info, and will update roster in time for May meeting.
 - Carlton Ham passed on info on memberships received since November
 - Fay Mahoney and Jane Hancock to receive honorary life memberships.

Museum Hours – Sundays 10am-2pm, May 8 through Labor Day

- Special need for volunteers Labor Day weekend and August 7, Alumni Day

Book Purchase – 40 more copies of Elizabeth Jewell’s book *Franklin Then and Now* are being ordered. Leigh and Elizabeth plan to add insert with corrections.

GAR Hall Furniture – Four “stations” now restored, looking much more like it did in the 1890’s, thanks to Dan Darling and Mayor Ken Merrifield.

Gerrish Station – No updates at this time.

Upside Down Bridge – No updates. (Leigh will have lunch with Ben Wilson soon.)

Painting of Franklin Library – The Betty Jeanne Bassett painting, formerly featured in the FHS cafeteria, is still being repaired the FHS art teacher.

Historic Home Signs – wooden (or possibly plastic) signs still available – can purchase for any historic house; see Leigh if interested.

New/Other Business

Community Day Volunteers, Sat. May 14, 9am-2pm, Odell Park – contact Leigh or Annette if you can volunteer an hour at Historical Society booth

Plant Sale –Sat. June 26; bring plants, in any containers.

Route 3 Sign Use Proposal –

- Historic, metal signs belong to City, donated to Historical Society for safe-keeping
- Approached by Bob Lucas and Tim Morrill about putting them back up along highway, welcoming motorists to Franklin.
- Concern: weather/vandals
 - Suggestion: have sign-maker make replicas; place replicas on road, keep originals safe – **consensus agreed**
 - Further suggested: place replicas at parks (i.e. Marceau Park, Vietnam/Korean Veterans’ Parks) or at lights, so drivers aren’t tempted to read text while driving.

“Albert G. Garneau Memorial Meeting Room” and “Alice M. and John S. Shepard Jr. Memorial Exhibit Room”

- Suggestion to honor these individuals by naming spaces at Historical Society after them and placing brass plaques on doors.

- Suggested that we check with families first
- Have a dedication some Sunday this summer, invite families
- Leigh will investigate cost of plaques, probably \$40-\$50.

Campton NH Historic Building Signs

- Betty and Robert Pauwels took recent trip to Campton, which has numbered signs on every historic building, and will find out more information
- Campton has active Historical Society
- Every sign had a sponsor
- Could be an Eagle Scout project
- Chris Lewis noted that Franklin did an inventory of historic sites for Centennial
 - Includes the Ladd Home in West Franklin, a confirmed site of Underground Railroad

Announcements/Correspondence

- **Historical Society of Sanbornton** – April 14, “Preservation Tools”, at Sanbornton Library
- **“Trackless Trolley”** – Leigh shared photo from 1902 newspaper – an idea that didn’t happen
- **Website** – Domain site “GoDaddy” updated software, didn’t continue some features. Dan Darling updated our entire site; no longer has “guest book” feature.

Adjournment – 9:10pm

Submitted by Karen Darling