

WHS Board of Directors Meeting
October 19, 2018
Steele Community Room, 1:00pm

In attendance: Barb Farr, Betty Jones, Steve VanEsen, Jan Gendreau, Jack Carter, Cheryl Casey, Jim Walton

Guests: Anne Imhoff, Natalie Sherman, Rich Hayes, Susan Bulmer, Barb MacGregor

Call to order, 1:05 p.m. — Barb Farr

- I. Presentation of check by Winterfest for CCC Camp Smith chimney restoration
 - A. Barb: Between the state, the community, Winterfest, historical society, volunteerism - the trails are just wonderful.
 - B. Natalie introduced Rich Hayes, Winterfest Grants Committee liaison for grants to support recreation in Waterbury.
 - C. Rich: After a chance conversation with Anne about common interest in CCC Camp, she put her application in to grants program and he championed it through. Gap closure on funding needed to happen, and Anne used that as motivating fuel. A chance exchange can lead to an impactful result like this. A lot of people don't recognize that if it weren't for the CCC, we wouldn't be enjoying the range of recreational resources we do today. It's an important legacy of infrastructure that could have gone a different way in that era. Preserving the chimneys for a bit longer is a nice gift.
 - D. Barb: The other grant was through the Walter Cerf Foundation. It was interesting because they really focused on Addison County unless compelling story was otherwise given. The case was made that this CCC Camp was of great importance statewide. The WHS received \$2,000 from the Walter Cerf Foundation. The bid came in for the chimney repairs at \$7200, and we now have \$7400.
 - E. Susan Bulmer: Very lucky to have Camp Smith, among things over which she has purview. It has been a huge pleasure working with Anne, the WHS, and all the committees over the years. Barb McGregor has been taking the lead in working with Anne. We've had more and more interest in the trail in the last couple of years - it's great to get to that level and still have plans for future development.
 - F. The WHS was the non-profit conduit for grants and donations and the state of Vermont owns the land. Anne Imhoff: Thanked Barb for help on the Cerf grant, Jan for helping work on one of the concrete pads, clearing off mulch and cutting down trees. Owe a lot to community volunteers who gave up a couple of hours every other Saturday to help clear the CCC site.

- G. Presentation of check of \$1,000 from Winterfest to WHS for the State to use in preserving the chimneys.
- II. Treasurer's report — given by Jan
 - A. \$127,536.38 = total of all accounts.
 - B. Motion to approve report — Jim
 - C. Seconded by Steve
 - D. Motion passes unanimously
- III. Draft letter for annual appeal
 - A. Barb: The letter is a little bit longer than usual because it includes some accomplishments within and by the Society.
 - B. Jack - some recommendations on wordsmithing that would allow for a shorter letter, use bullets, identify Bob and Betty by name re: their lifetime achievement award.
 - C. Barb: What is our goal? Last year we sent the letter to everyone in town, which was a large cost in terms of postage. Do we want to just send it to our membership and those who gave last year? Paul will provide a list of those who gave who aren't currently members and include those. The other option is to do what we did last year and canvas the entire community again.
 - 1. Jim: What about an ad in the newspaper to reach non-members/those who didn't give last year?
 - 2. Barb: this more cost effective and reaches everyone. We could do something with a color border to make it stand out.
 - 3. Betty: What about a history "did you know?" history column once/month in the Record?
 - 4. Jan: Suggested to reword the last paragraph about the quarterly newsletter.
 - 5. Jack: The one piece that could be expanded a bit is about the Community Room refresh - clearer tie-in to us.
 - 6. Barb: Let's set a goal of \$10,000 again and see what we get.
 - D. Barb will redraft and send out again for a last round of comments. Goal is to send by the end of the October.
 - E. Volunteers to help stuff and stamp envelopes — Jan and Jack
 - F. General outreach via other media - "did you know" and "what is it?" kind of thing. Outreach Committee can head that up and provide content.
- IV. Main Street project update:
 - A. Barb met with Karen Nevin and Alyssa and went to Brandon, who is doing exactly same type of project we will do. They are finding some interesting artifacts.

When Waterbury's project begins, the "journey" of what we find is something Barb can document on FPF and in the Record.

- V. Curator's report — Jack
 - A. Our last open house on the 29th, we had 100% more attendance than we did in August (13 people). Jimmy Thurston came (local celebrity!).
 - B. Betty: Maybe we could do an exhibit on the great musicians in town.
 - C. For the last open house on 10/27, we have the times covered.
 - D. Dropping the project of finding special track lighting for the mural pieces in the Steele Room. The placard needs to add mention of the rest of the mural being down at the train station (and vice versa).
- VI. Archivist report — given by Barb
 - A. Tracy has been out about a month because of a family issue
 - B. Target goal to start online PastPerfect presence is now unsure, since it is tied to the Archivist position. Postponing the goal - will sit down with Paul and Tracy to assess next steps. Delayed, but we still have a responsibility to identify a new target date and continue working on both the back-end data entry and preparing for online public access.
 - C. Steve: There is history occurring currently like local businesses that are coming and going. There is no process or entity for inventorying them. This needs to be part of our longer-term goals.
 - D. Barb: We need to have a conversation next meeting about a dedicated archivist that may need to work more than 10 hours per week.
- VII. Program Committee report — Betty
 - A. Next program is coming up on Wednesday, Oct 24. Anne will be able to let us in at 6pm to begin setting up. There will be a short business meeting before the program. The committee would like the Board to bring refreshments - some snacks or baked goods.
 - B. We'll have books for sale, and Cami has a large amount of old postcards that she has offered up for sale.
 - C. There is another event with the Library that may impact parking. Their event is in the back room, which is much smaller. It shouldn't be as big of an issue this time, but we have had complaints about parking in the past.
 - D. January 23rd meeting — Caboose story (on Henry Hough Road), and Cami is leading that plan.
 - E. April 24 is annual meeting, and Brian will present on "Railroad Accidents."
 - 1. Barb: Starting in April, they will begin ripping up Main Street - keep this in mind. Mostly daytime work, so they should be done by our program time.

2. Jan: We could just schedule in the Center at the Grange or the Church and avoid the issues.
 3. Barb: We have time to think about, but it is something we should revisit once the bid is finalized and the schedule clarified.
- F. Betty: Picnic meeting scheduled for July 24 at Hope Davey. It has been suggested we do a program about square dancing. The Caswells are very involved in the Morrisville square dancing group - Spoke with Joanna Caswell; she does a history talk about square dancing and would have a caller and music for a demonstration. Mike Woodard has a wooden dance floor and checking with him to borrow it. Troupe is in Alaska until July 25, so working on changing it to July 31.
- VIII. Newsletter report — Cheryl
- A. Newsletter is at the printer. Began winter newsletter in conjunction, and using content that I'm also writing for the Record so that the next newsletter will be on time.
- IX. Updates on fundraising opportunities —
- A. Jan: talked with Connie Lyle, who has a business in engraving, with regards to an engraved slate item as something to sell for WHS. Contacted someone in Morrisville about engraving pieces of railroad track.
 - B. Jack: We have about 20 pieces of track, in varying sizes. Each could be stamped/engraved on the bottom.
 - C. Betty: We could include a Mount Mansfield Railroad ticket, make a nice package out of it.
 - D. Barb: Reprinting estimates for the 1906-1907 Vacation Hints booklet for 500 copies:
 1. Minuteman: \$1105.91
 2. L. Brown: \$1220
 3. Express in Stowe: \$1470
 4. Will inquire with Pack and Send for a quote too.
 5. Steve: Derby Ball baseball bat brochure done by Darrick at Pack n Send, an excellent job well done.
 - E. Motion to authorize 250 copies of vacation booklet at up to \$2.50/copy — Cheryl
 - F. Motion seconded by Steve
 - G. Motion unanimously approved
 - H. Jan: Can we make a greeting card out of a picture of the new train art on the trestle?

1. Barb: Perhaps blank cards or postcards. RW owns the sculpture itself, but that doesn't mean they own all pictures of it. Will talk to Karen Nevin about the idea.
- X. Vermont Historical Society Lifetime Achievement Award
 - A. Betty and Bob going to receive their Award and will be driven there by their daughter-in-law.
 - B. Jack will accept the Train Station Merit Award and Jan will attend the ceremony.
 - C. Once the event happens, we can publicize their award.
 - XI. Trivia Night update — Barb
 - A. Jane has gotten all the trivia information and is working with Grace and Skip. It was weird that the VHS didn't include the answers, so Jane had to hunt down what was missing from the package.
 - XII. Next meeting: Friday, November 30 at 11:00 a.m. (Since changed to 3:00pm), No December meeting.
 - A. Motion to adjourn — Cheryl
 - B. Motion seconded — Jack
 - C. Motion unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned 2:56 p.m. — Barb Farr