

Waterbury Historical Society Meeting January 15, 2025

Present: Cheryl Casey, Bill Woodruff, Laura Parette, Stacey Askew, Margaret Moreland, Grace Sweet, Skip Flanders, Joe Camaratta, Anne Imhoff & Jill Chase.

November meeting minutes

Anne moved to approve, Joe seconded. Passed.

Welcome New Board Member

Cheryl expressed delight that Margaret Moreland has joined the board.

Reports ~

[Cheryl hopes that all reports will be submitted a week in advance of our meetings to encourage discussion]

Collections Manager

Stacey is working closely with the collections acquisition committee to continue organizing.

She reports that Sandy's computer is fixed though **the office temperature often gets up to 83°.**

Anne took Stacey on a tour to acquaint her with more of the area.

Program Committee

All ready for Brian's presentation on **Lost Ski Areas of Waterbury, Jan. 30th at 5:30**

Refreshments and a table for items to sell, sign up sheet, & donation jar are planned.

Outreach

Skip presented on the collection's lard bucket at the Senior Center.

Collection Acquisitions

Going on as usual with the files.

Communications

Start thinking of content for next newsletter, due by Feb. 8, coming out March 8th.

Meals on Wheels flyer went out successfully.

Money & Membership

[Joe's reports are attached.]

Online giving has increased. However only 1/3 of last year's new members renewed, so **Joe suggested he & Cheryl come up a survey to ask why to send to those who haven't re-upped.**

More asks will be coming online and in newsletters.

President Notes

A new volunteer, Ryan Geary, will be coming in to organize the current school exhibit.

Cheryl, Stacey & Laura met with the VHS training program initiative and were very impressed with what will be covered and supported. There are monthly meetings and in person workshops at VHS. It's a year-long project and this is the first cohort of five societies; there will be a second cohort next year. **They are looking for dedicated attendees beyond Cheryl. She can send everyone the coming schedule of sessions.**

Cheryl will also be working on the annual report for Town Meeting.

Old Business ~

Annual Appeal Thank Yous

Joe & Laura discussed logistics. Will be handled by Pack & Send. Meet Feb. 8, 10am, to sign the cards.

Items for Merrill's

Will need keys and code for Cheryl to get into Sir Richard's storage.

Society Calendar

Laura and Cheryl set up a calendar that will be constantly updating. Therefore, **the board will need to keep a link to that to know what's going on, add to, or change the calendar.**

Cheryl can resend the link and/or be your tech support.

Town Plan

We are on the agenda for Jan. 27th and Cheryl is finishing a document (with input from the library and the cemetery) to submit. **When she's finished, she'll send it to all of us to review.**

Stacey and perhaps Laura will be attending as well. All others are welcome!

Flowers/Cards to Betty & Grace

Cheryl will do so on behalf of the WHS board.

Manuscript of The Waterbury Record at The Country Book Shop

Anne & Skip will go to Plainfield to check it out to see if it's something WHS would like to acquire. Anne's experience in publishing can help evaluate.

New Business ~

Member Development Committee

Upgraded and diversified nominating committee. Cheryl has put out the call on social media to join. Need 3 people. Only one board member is necessary. **Cheryl is asking committee members if they'd like to change up on which committee they serve.** Joe would like a search to start for finance and Grace will be stepping down as secretary. **Committee chairs should ask if they need new members.** Chairs should also be voting members at board meetings. The committee will be going through the member list as well as the list of people who've volunteered to help, but have not yet been assigned a task. We can direct candidates to the Volunteer page of the WHS website. **Send any suggestions for that page to Cheryl if you have ideas. Cheryl asks we go over the current website to be familiar with it and to submit input.**

Ghost Walk Planning

Hope to find an understudy for Jan so that she can retire at some point and **should start looking for people.** Jan & Skip have discussed having it in Hope this year. One person to focus on would be Roy Arnold who carved the circus wagons at the Shelburne Museum.

Others: Hobart lot story (connection to Shaw Mansion Rd.), Andrew Brown who was the CVRR station agent, and the story of the two fountains, now gone.

Program/event set-up and standard talking points

Regularly used program items will be organized and kept together in the history center, including a list of talking points that should be referred to at every program/event. Also need a locked box for donations that could be fixed to the wall in the history center. Maybe the old mailbox Anne brought in, maybe a clear acrylic box. **Cheryl is working on this.** Instead of a sign-in for programs, start a sign-up sheet with things that can be signed up for. Capture and use email addresses that are given (with permission).

Old postcards from Luce's Store

Jan has distributed all those of other towns to their historical societies.

Could also use the duplicates that are left as giveaways at the farmers' market, at programs, or as prizes.

The Butler House

Joe & Jan discussed. There are no protections in place to keep it from being moved. Joe will follow up by reaching out to Chris Noyes to see if he'd be interested in coordinating its use with WHS. Cheryl suggested it be a project for the 250 Anniversary Projects in cooperation with the town and RW.

Next meeting will be February 19, 4:30 in the Steele Community Room

Respectfully submitted January 15, 2025

Jill Chase, temporary scribe

