

Falmouth Historical Society
Board Meeting
Falmouth Memorial Library
May 12, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 6:50 PM by President, Scott McLeod.

Those present were: President, Scott McLeod; V. President, Jeanne Madden; Secretary, Betsy Jo Whitcomb; Directors: Maryellen Tetreau, Ann Gagnon, Beverley Knudsen, Janice Delima, and Colleen Donovan.

Mark Stevanovic has sent an email of resignation as he is moving out of state. This has been reluctantly accepted.

The first topic discussed was our reaction to the workshop Erin Bishop conducted on April 25, 2015. She has not yet sent her evaluation of what was discussed and her recommendations for our society. However we went around the table to hear reaction from each member who was present. The reaction was about the same for all of us. We felt it was very useful and enlightening. The basic point taken was that we need to concentrate on getting a handle on our collection identification and not be afraid to let go of some other planned projects.

This led into a discussion about talking with other societies about how they do things (this is what the SOLVE group is all about and we are due to host the next meeting here in Falmouth on October 19, 2015 at 9:30 AM).

We also need to look at our mission statement and fit our collection to it.

In talking about our collection, there was talk about where to do the data inputting and should we stop office hours and concentrate on the data collection. It was decided that not everyone can do the data work and some preferred not to do that, so it was decided to continue having the office open on Tuesdays and work on the data processing on Tuesdays while the office is open. That led to a report that Ann is the only person scheduled to work in the office on Tuesday. Jeanne will see if she can work from FHS office on Tuesday as we all felt it was not safe for only one person to be in the office when it is open.

This discussion flowed into the collection at the museum and that led to a discussion of moving full time to the museum. We all know that we cannot afford to build an office as had been proposed prior to this and thus ideas of what we could do started to flow and the idea of perhaps not keeping the museum set up as a farm house as it is now and turning part of the first floor into an office/research area popped into the conversation. That led to thinking about the need for heat/air conditioning/climate control and perhaps insulating.

It was decided that the Executive Committee will come up with a plan to digitize the content and start looking into the possibilities of moving to the museum. It was agreed that for safety we really need to start planning to move out of Whipple Farm House. It was further agreed that we need to go to the museum to inventory what we have there and see how an office set up might look.

On another subject it was decided that we will be walking in the Memorial Day Parade with our banner and those who cannot walk with us we hope will stand along the parade route and support our effort by wearing a FHS tee shirt or hat as those who walk will be wearing. We have shirts available for all who want them – see Betsy if you want one.

It also was decided that we will need to have some work days at the museum this summer and we will use those opportunities to have the museum open to the public instead of having set days and times and the need to get members to guide tours.

We will decide later in the summer whether to continue with plans for the fall festival.

The newsletter will be put out in the next two weeks.

The meeting was closed after deciding that the Board will be kept informed of the Executive Board's progress by email. We were reminded that we are helping the library sponsor the Library Sundae on July 12th. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

