

The Falmouth Historical Society Board Meeting
May 2, 2017
The Society Office and Museum

Members present: Betsy Jo Whitcomb, President/Secretary; Ann Gagnon, V President; David Farnham, Treasurer; Jeanne Madden, Immediate Past President; and Directors: Sue Farnham/Membership Chair, Ron Scorsone, and Erin Cadigan.

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 PM.

Betsy talked about a conversation she had with Shannon McCafferty who is working on renovation of 154 Foreside Rd, Falmouth. She says she was told this is the 4th oldest house in Falmouth and one room-presumably a dining room-has painted walls and she was wondering if we would like the opportunity of having these wall paintings before they are demolished. She sent pictures for us to see. There was a discussion about if the walls could be dismantled intact-we assume they are plaster walls that were painted with murals. If that could be done, how would we display them and where since our space is limited. It was decided that Betsy and anyone else interested would go see the walls and at least get pictures that could be put with other information on the house that we have. We probably are not interested in having the walls and Erin suggested that they contact the Maine Project for Fine Art-Conservation Project MEAC in Portland. Betsy will pass that information to them.

Betsy also told of a phone call from Jan Becker, the daughter of Red Leighton who was born in the Society house 92 years ago. Jan said her folks are still talking about being able to see the house again last fall. There was a picture of the house as it used to be that she would like to have a copy of. Betsy will see that she gets one for them.

Dave passed out the Treasurer's report which shows a balance in the Society checking account of \$1,532.64; Internet checking account of \$166.08; and Museum savings account of \$1,437.68. There are pending expenses of \$1,881.86.

After that report was given there were two discussions about 1. Membership and 2. An account with the Maine Community Foundation-which most of us did not know about.

1. Membership: Sue passed out a report that states currently we have 144 Active; 118 Overdue Renewals-over 1 yr old; 63 Lapsed members; and 2 New members. Erin has been working on a new brochure for the Society which is about ready except we need to vote on whether we will increase dues. After much discussion it was voted to increase dues as follows on July 1, 2017:

- Students from \$5/year to \$10/year
- Individuals from \$25/year to \$30/year
- Families from \$30/year to \$50/year
- Supporters from \$50/year to \$100/year
- Researchers from \$100/year to \$150/year
- Collectors \$250/year
- Historians \$500/year
- Patrons \$1000/year

This increase passed unanimously.

2. Jeanne has been doing some research for us into fund raising. She found when the Society raised funds to move to our current location and build a barn the unused portion of the raised funds were put into an account with the Maine Community Foundation. We have not tapped into this fund for at least two years when we added our heating system. There is currently a balance of \$44,000 in the fund and we have \$1,820 available for disbursement. After much discussion it was moved and seconded that we take the \$1,820 plus \$12,000 more and use the money to put in a hot water heater, perhaps get the new sign we have talked about, and catch up on our current debt and have a cushion in our account until the dues come in from our planned membership drive. The motion passed unanimously. There will be an email sent to all current members announcing the price increase and allowing those who pay 2017-18 dues prior to 7/1/17 to pay the current price. After the June Board Meeting a letter will go to those who are not current in their dues to pay prior to 7/1/17 at current prices.

In conjunction with this discussion, there were questions raised about the cost of a new sign. Betsy will call Bailey Sign and see if the quote of last August is still in effect and what the difference in cost would be without the logo on the sign. The thoughts from the Board were to put up a new sign that is maintenance-free and eventually restore the present sign and put it on display somewhere in the museum or on the barn.

There was a discussion about our workday scheduled for this next Sunday, May 7th from 1-4 PM. A list of projects to be done was made and supplies were checked. Projects include cleaning upstairs and down, wash windows, and clean out the basement. The weather does not look too conducive to outside work this time. It was decided to remove things from the basement that we cannot use and make two piles. One for the Dump Guy to come get next week and another pile inside the barn for the Lions Auction. Jeanne will provide coffee and Erin will bring food.

Two other topics briefly discussed were for the museum to be open the day of the Lion's Auction (June 3rd) and to have a table at the election (June 13th). Anyone available on June 3rd can let Betsy know. We will discuss the election participation at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 2017 @ 6:30 PM at the MUSEUM.

Respectfully Submitted