

Minutes of the Falmouth Historical Society Board Meeting
Falmouth Heritage Museum
January 9, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM.

Present were David Farnham (president/treasurer), Rich Meserve (vice-president), Sue Farnham (secretary), Betsy Jo Whitcomb, Fred Howe, Ron Scorsone, and Rick Parker.

Treasurer's Report: We are currently running under budget due to having some expenses planned for this autumn, and some coming in under budget. We have a balance of \$9841.78 in our operating accounts and \$31,990.56 with the foundation.

Our state license renewal is still pending review by the state.

Secretary's Report: We had two membership renewals last month. There was discussion about changing from a fixed membership term based on the fiscal year (July 31st) to a rolling term based on date of membership anniversary (date of joining the organization). This means we would no longer have to offer extended membership for people who joined late in the fiscal year. It also means the renewal is good for one year. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved by the Board that we change to rolling admission.

The Secretary's report for the month of December was approved online by the Board.

Old Business: The proposed membership renewal letter was approved unanimously by the Board. Members who have not yet renewed will be receiving this letter in the mail soon.

Betsy Jo will contact Sue with the proposed cost for the new sign from Burr Signs. Sue will then write a letter to the Lions Club asking for assistance in paying for the new sign. This will be a nearly weather-proof metal sign with lettering on both sides. It will be positioned perpendicular to the road. We will keep the old mahogany sign inside the Museum. We would like to restore it at some point in the future.

Betsy Jo reported that the Annual Meeting is scheduled for Thursday October 18 at Town Hall.

Rebuilding of the handicapped access ramp/Eagle Scout project: Rich was notified that the town has been contacted re: zoning and regulations.

Our propane delivery was late during the cold snap, causing the furnace to shut down. This required a visit from the furnace technician to restart the furnace. Erin Cardigan and Ron Scorsone were instrumental in getting this done quickly, before the pipes had a chance to freeze. Thank-you Ron and Erin!

Review of pricing of copying services, creation of a digital catalog, and audit were tabled until next month.

New Business: Betsy Jo was contacted by the citizens' group proposing a historical area designation for the Four Corners area. They would like to use the Museum as a meeting place. Due to limited lighting inside and out of the Museum and the ensuing safety issues, the Board approved their use of the Museum, but only during daytime hours and preferably on weekend days, until we have dealt with the lighting and safety issues.

Leland Hanchett, Jr. sent the Historical Society a copy of his new book, *Connecting Maine's Capitals by Stagecoach*, in appreciation for the assistance provided during the preparation for the book. He is offering the Society a chance to carry copies of the book for resale at 40% off the list price of \$25.00. Sue will place the book on the library table at the Museum for members to review before we consider his offer at the next meeting.

The Board has designated which board members will back up the officers in the event of an absence. Rich Meserve will cover for the President, Ron Scorsone will cover for the Treasurer function, Betsy Jo will cover for the Secretary, and Rick Parker will cover for the Vice President.

Ron Scorsone has agreed to be the facilities point of contact.

We have identified some areas of the Museum that need attention: The back door needs weather-stripping; similarly, the bulkhead entry to the basement needs insulation. We would also like to tighten up the sills of the house against the cold and any possible "critter" entry. Volunteers to assist us in this effort are welcome!

Falmouth Memorial Library is looking for storage space for some of their belongings during their upcoming renovation. The board has decided to offer some space in the second floor of the Museum barn. Rich Meserve may be able to help with the move, along with some of his students.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne (Sue) Farnham

