

The Falmouth Historical Society Minutes

Held at a Board Member's Home—Mar 5, 2019

The board meeting came to order at 6:30 PM. Present were Fred Howe, Ron Scorsone, Erin Cadigan, Betsy Whitcomb, David Farnham, and Sue Farnham.

Secretary's Report

The February minutes were reviewed and approved.

Membership. The current membership is 109. There are 19 lapsed members.

Erin reported on the membership renewal drive. Letters have gone out to lapsed members, overdue members, and those currently due (up to May 1). We sent out 100 solicitation letters to businesses. Erin also sent out an email blast to the membership containing recent news.

Treasurer's report

The Society has a balance of \$6,776 in its cash accounts and \$22,880 with the Foundation. Our expenses are running \$908 higher than budgeted.

A \$250 check was received from Community Programs for the tours that they sponsored jointly with our society.

Old Business

Maintenance. Mice have been eating the bag of bait stored upstairs, evidence that they are still finding their way in. Betsy has set out more bait in places where signs of activity has been observed.

Due to the continued winter weather, the focus of the March 16th work day has changed from exterior work to interior work. We will be pulling out the old plaster and lathe from at least one of the upstairs rooms. Ron and Fred will go ahead with the purchase of a liner bag for the dumpster. Volunteers who can help in any capacity are welcome! Contact either Fred Howe or Ron Scorsone.

An update on January's list of exterior maintenance work for this spring includes: continue washing the siding on the house; finish the repair of the ramp; scrape, repair, and paint the doors and the kitchen window and the trim around each; and clear out the ditch beside the driveway.

Information Systems. We have the license for PastPerfect, so Ron and Erin can now begin building the catalog.

We still need to purchase and install Carbonite on the Museum computers to back up our data into the cloud.

Merchandise. Cookbook: Betsy will contact Marge Devine to get the authorization from the previous “owner” required by the printers.

Wallace book: Staples will charge \$450 to print 100 books. We will look for the list of corrections from Marge so that we can add an errata/forward page.

New Business

The safety of our volunteers, members, and patrons is a high priority. One of our officers slipped on the ice outside the Museum last month and sustained an injury. For the remainder of the winter, we will be open conditionally. If there is ice in the driveway and/or walkway, we will not be open.

Sue and Betsy toured the farmhouse and barn at Tidewater Farm along with town officials and a structural engineer. Sadly, both buildings are in bad shape and are structurally unsafe. The only salvageable things are a few doors, possibly a few beams in the barn, and the door trim around the main barn door. The town and land trust will likely move ahead with demolition this spring.

We have recently been informed of an event happening in Falmouth later this spring in which we may be involved.

FHS is a member of the Maine Association of Archives and Museums. They offer programs for educating organizations like ours. We hope the board and some of our volunteers will take advantage of some of these training opportunities in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Farnham