

The Falmouth Historical Society

Meeting of the Board of Directors
Zoom Meeting—September 14, 2021

The meeting came to order at 6:30 p.m. Present were Betsy Whitcomb, Carol Kauffman, David Farnham, Rich Meserve, Ron Scorsone, Sally Farneth, and Sue Farnham.

President's Remarks

David began the meeting by noting the Society's high tempo of activity. The level of work at the Museum is comparable to what we did during 2017-19. We have five volunteers keeping the Museum open one day/week instead of being spread over two days. Better teamwork makes us more efficient. Meanwhile, there has been no slackening of work for our online presence. We are doing a lot and doing it well.

He cautioned against burnout. We don't have enough volunteers to do everything. Some work is getting set aside. That's okay because we will be able to catch up after the Museum closes for winter.

Secretary's Report

Minutes. The August Board meeting minutes were previously accepted by an online vote and posted on the Society website.

Membership. Our active membership is 88.

Treasurer's Report

Administration. Our return for tax year 2020 (fiscal year 2020-21) was submitted and accepted (twice). We submitted an amended return to correct a transcription error. Next month we renew our license as a Maine Charitable Organization.

Finances. The Society has a balance of \$2,223 in its operating accounts and \$20,327 with the Foundation. Our accounts payable is \$0.

Since this meeting is taking place mid-month, the financial reports include September. Our routine bills are not posted until later in the month so the

performance (actual vs. budget) report does not reflect \$312 for maintenance (security) and about \$215 for utilities. Nor does it include the \$500 reserved for septic and repair of the barn roof ridge.

We have not submitted our request to the Foundation for a withdrawal from savings yet. Unless we encounter unexpected maintenance expenses, we should be able to stretch this withdrawal out over 18 months—and perhaps longer with a modest boost in fundraising.

Committee Reports

Programs. Sally reported that the model barn was finished and brought to the Museum. It will serve as a focal point for talking with K-12 students about 19th century farm life. It provides context for many of the artifacts in the Museum and Barn. Parts of the model barn were constructed using wood salvaged from Tidewater Farm.

The Covid surge led to the cancellation of the program at OceanView in October; it will be rescheduled for spring.

The annual meeting is scheduled for January 18th. We haven't found any public meeting spaces. It may be necessary to hold the annual meeting online via Zoom.

Museum Operation & Exhibits. The Museum and Barn have been open for eight weeks (not counting Labor Day) this season. The Museum is buzzing with activity. Our docents have shown 31 visitors around the Museum and Barn while answering questions about Falmouth history. Our volunteers are kept busy accepting and accessioning donated artifacts and documents, reorganizing our files, and housecleaning. The museum is neater and cleaner than it has been in years.

The Museum will be closed for the week of September 26th due to the Cumberland Fair.

Collections.

Acquisitions. We had three major donations:

- Artifacts from John F. Williams (1871-1938) and Roger Williams (1914-1985). John Williams' homestead was located on Depot Road near where

Ricetta's is now. The farm was sold in 1945 when the "new" Route One was built. John served as town constable and tax collector. His son, Roger Williams, was director of public works and served as a deputy fire chief. The artifacts consist of tools for their farm and work for the town. The documents include mid-20th century maps of town infrastructure.

- Family papers for Ronald A. Merrill (1912-1982) and Nancy (Greene) Merrill (1918-2016). Ronald lived in West Falmouth before moving to Falmouth Corners in 1951.
- Athletic plaques for Falmouth High School from the mid-1930s.

Catalog. Ron reported that he is now transcribing acquisition records from 2005 into the digital catalog. It is slow going.

Local History. We responded to ten queries from the community during the past month and a half.

Expansion of Falmouth-related content on the website has resumed. Links to one map and five volumes of references were added.

Communications. The newsletter has been delayed by competing demands for time. Nor were there any social media posts despite having plenty of content. Given the light turnout expected at the polls in November, we won't set up a table this time.

Betsy arranged for FHS to have a table in the Exhibit Hall for the Cumberland Fair near the table for Cumberland Historical. We will set up the table on Saturday and depart the following Saturday afternoon. The table will be manned during four of the seven days:

Sun, 09/26	Tue, 09/28	Thu, 09/30	Sat, 10/02
<u>9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.</u>	<u>9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.</u>	<u>9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.</u>	<u>9:00 a.m.-noon</u>
Betsy, David/Suzanne, Sally (p.m.)	Betsy, David/Suzanne, Sally, Rich (late p.m.)	Betsy, David/Suzanne, Rich (late p.m.)	Betsy, David/Suzanne, Sally

Betsy will be at the fair the entire time. The rest of us will provide as much coverage as possible.

Cumberland Fair will provide a table and chairs. There will be an electric outlet nearby and WiFi.

We will bring seat cushions and a heavy-duty extension cord. Our display will include the banner, poster boards telling our story, artifacts (TBD), and merchandise. We will bring plenty of membership flyers and a laptop configured for card swiping. We will try to have a galley of the cookbook for inspection.

Merchandise.

Cookbook. There were no meetings. Transcription of the recipes for both volumes is done. The next step is editing for publication-ready appearance. Sue distributed the “helpful hints” for comment.

Museum Buildings & Grounds. Ron has not heard back from the company that will repair the roof ridge on the barn. That work must be completed before winter arrives. The Museum and Barn entrance doors have become more difficult to operate and need new locksets.

Rich mentioned that we need to replace our mower. We also need a string trimmer. We will put out the word to see if anyone has a mower or trimmer they would like to donate.

Technology. Nothing significant to report.

Development. Nothing significant to report.

General Topics

There being no new business, the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Suzanne Farnham, Secretary