

Minutes of the Falmouth Historical Society Board Meeting
Falmouth Heritage Museum
February 6, 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, Rick Parker, and Erin Cadigan.

Treasurer's Report: We have a balance of \$9,084.53 in our operating accounts and \$32,917.63 with the foundation. Expenses do not reflect a \$35 payment to MMA (annual membership) from PayPal. An expected January bill for \$600 (History IT) has not arrived yet. Utilities are running \$545 (22% above budget). \$760 in dues is in process.
Our state license renewal is still pending review by the state.

Secretary's Report: The Secretary's report for January was approved online by the Board. In response to our membership renewal mailing, we have received 35 membership renewals. We have also gained 4 new members.
Sue Farnham has written and sent a letter to the Lions Club asking for assistance in paying for the new sign.

Old Business:

Sue reviewed the pricing of copying services by other historical societies (gathered from their websites): photocopy charges ranged from \$.15 - .25 per page. Scanning charges at the Maine Historical Society are \$15 per item. Research charges range from \$20 -25/hour at 3 other local town historical societies. The Maine Historical Society charges \$15 for a quick search and \$40 per hour for an in-depth search. Sue will continue to gather information and review our current charges.

Rich Meserve– Max Dunlap is the Eagle Scout in charge of the rebuilding of the ramp and stairs. Max is a Junior at Falmouth High School. He has been checking into the zoning and regulations with the town. Rich will meet with Max in March.

Building Maintenance that needs attention as soon as possible:

1. Door sweep to close the ½ inch gap under the back door
2. A temporary replacement railing on the entry stairs.
3. Bulkhead insulation
4. Repair of the leaking sump pump hose.
5. Replacement of the spotlights on the barn.

Tercentennial Events– Erin Cadigan

The lectures on the Quakers of Falmouth went very well. There were 22 at the first lecture, and about 18 at the second.

The Sock Hop: Erin will set ticket prices and work on the promotion. David will print posters. The cost for catering needs to be obtained from Ocean View.

The Lions Club raffle night at Madden's is coming up on Feb 24th, from 5 – 7 PM. Let's support this, as the Lions have been good to us in the past!

Denise Macaronas of Falmouth Community Programs is working on the Historic Sites Guided Tour. A bus has been hired and it will hold 15. We need a narrator – a suggestion was to ask Carol Kauffman to do this. This will be offered in Community Programs' spring brochure. The question was raised if Denise would like for us to run off additional brochures for the Tour.

Destination Falmouth: From Farmland to Vacationland - Dr. Richard Judd, Professor of History at UMaine, will explore the topic of coastal tourism in Maine on May 17. We need to establish time and location.

Dinner on the Coast will take place on July 22 – time is not yet set; we are already getting inquiries. Tickets are \$125 each.

Sue's review of other historical societies' websites gave her some thoughts of things that we might consider doing to increase our presence in the community:

1. Get fire truck or milk truck out for an event. For example, the firehouse is having an open house Oct. 15; tow one of the vehicles on a flatbed for the Memorial Day Parade.
2. Categories to add to our website: volunteer opportunities, online museum store, donations (add collections policy to this), wish list, corporate memberships (and what we can do for them in return).

This led to the question of summer hours: should we open the museum on weekends to reach a broader audience? There was a consensus among the volunteers that we should open on Saturdays in July (except for the first weekend) from 10:00 until 2:00. (Was this what we agreed on?)

Ron Scorsone– Digital Cataloging Project. Jeanne Madden would like to come over and look at the cataloging tool. She is concerned it might be a bit complicated. Ron suggested we accept the standard package, which is customizable. We can start with a small collection.

Annual Meeting Lecture ideas: We could have a panel of those researching local history, talking about their experiences in researching town history. Possible people: Wayne Cobb, Marjorie Devine, Larry Dhyrberg, and Ford Reiche. Have each speak for about 10 minutes.

Members have had a chance to review Leland Hanchett, Jr.'s new book, *Connecting Maine's Capitals by Stagecoach*. He is offering the Society a chance to carry copies of the book for resale at

40% off the list price of \$25.00. Board members would like to see if we can purchase a small number – 10 – to see how they might sell. Sue and David will pursue this.

New Business

David Farnham– Discussion of tax deductible donations language for thank-you letters. The Board agreed the standard wording should suffice.

The license we got for Office 365 last year (when our older version of Office was having trouble) is up for renewal. Ron said that we no longer need the extra license and it shouldn't be renewed. The Board approved this action.

Dinner on the Coast – it was suggested that we think about producing some old photographs of Falmouth to have on the tables, or put in the menu, etc, to publicize the Historical Society and its collections.

Donations recently offered to the Historical Society:

1. 10 copies of the 1835 Trumpet Magazine, a national Universalist publication, offered by George Bresnick, MD—Not sure whether it has connection to Falmouth.
2. A. Chandler, Village of Barton's Mill – 1932 historical novel about a family in Oxford County. The Board decided to say no, as the book has no connection to Falmouth.

Ron raised the issue of whether we want to have people donate old photographs. Experience has shown that we need a system for screening and accessioning photos. A donation of a stack of old photos without context or clear connections to Falmouth would not be of much value to the Society.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Farnham, Secretary