

Kingston Historical Museum

Minutes of the Meeting held at the Kingston Community Library on July 26, 2016

Members present: Ruth Albert, Kathy Chase, Gladys Ray, Stacey Smoyer

Friends present: Jane Christie, Lesley Hume, Jef-Flanders-McDougall, and Walt Roy

Ruth called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM and gave a report on the actual budget. See page 1 of the *Town Of Kingston Museum Budget vs. Actual January 1 through July 1, 2016*.

The Budget: The items with a significant change – see committee minutes for January 21, 2016 – are as follows: Computer supplies at \$80.00; Mileage at \$100.00; and Seminars & Training at \$250.00. She pointed out that the Internet expense has been incurred by the town and that there is still \$250.00 available for seminars and training.

It was noted that there was no line item in the budget for archival furnishings (ex.: display case glass), equipment, and signs; they should be added to next year's budget.

Donations: Rick Lang of Highland Hardwoods donated the wood for the Fire House door frame and for the Fire House Tower door. Ralph Dutton of Exeter Decorating donated more linoleum for the Nichols Memorial Library cellar floor. Jennifer Goodwin made him a delicious cherry pie in appreciation.

Maintenance: Walt Roy created a hand rail for the Fire House side entrance. Now that he has permission from Rich St. Hilaire, he intends to repair the Grace Daley ELL outside door, using a door that is in storage. He has to cut it down to make it fit. Ruth has a current list of maintenance items to present to Rich/ the selectmen.

Signs: Kathy and Walt expressed the need to budget for permanent museum signs for the Nichols Memorial Library, the Fire House, and the street/ entrance to the museum complex. The signs should match the permanent ones that we have on the front of the Fire House, the Tramp House, the Grace Daley Barn and the Cobbler Shop. Kathy said that she has received feedback from residents and non-residents that the Nichols Memorial Library (NML) appears to be abandoned. She stated that the old green shades which cover the windows and, more recently, the overgrown grass give it the appearance of neglect. All agreed that in the meantime, we will continue to place temporary signs at key locations, including the NML. The committee expressed gratitude to Walt, Dave Taylor, and Stacey for creating temporary signs: Walt made the one for the Fire House side entrance, and Dave and Stacey created the street sign. The committee/Friends of the Museum intend to purchase buntings to be placed on the NML and the Fire House. They will be purchased for \$297.70 or \$377.90, and will be in place for Kingston Days on August 5th.

Publicity: Volunteer John Chandler is presently working on a website for the museum. It may be ready in time for Kingston Days. Walt suggested that we submit an article to the local papers describing our oral history project.

The Oral History Project: The Oral History Committee members are: Jane Christie, George Fisher, Muriel Ingalls, Virginia Morse, and Steve Sousa. To date, the committee has completed or made arrangements to do in the near future seven (7) interviews with audio and video recordings. They are of the following individuals and topics: Completed - Bob Merrick (general), Alan Stevens and Betty Stevens (dairy farming), Dottie (Long) Maughan (Martha Long, an outstanding citizen); Scheduled - Richard Emery (the poultry business), Betty (Bakie) Flanagan (general), and Rita (Nason) Martin (general). Recently, The Friends of the Kingston Historical Museum launched a second oral history project called "Sharing Kingston Stories." The project will begin on Kingston Days;"Kingstonians" will be invited to be recorded, talking informally about a topic of their choice (ex.: the bonfire). The goal is to create a five (5) minute collage on specific topics. Related to the oral history projects is the need for an additional video camera so that more than one interview can be conducted simultaneously. It may be included in the new budget under equipment.

Special Exhibits* in place for Kingston Days: *An Outstanding Citizen* (Martha Long's personal items); *John Eaton Native Indian Collection*; *Finding Buried History* (Chuck Geary's collection of items he has found in the area using a metal detecting device); *Handicrafts Through The Ages*; and *Bridal Gowns of the 20th Century*.

*A special thank you to: the Fabulous Four who redesigned the display case for Indian artifacts. The glass now sits nicely in the case and can accommodate the collection; Chuck Geary for loaning his collection of items for *Finding Buried History* and his wife's wedding dress for *Bridal Gowns of the 20th Century*; Gladys Ray for creating the two exhibits, *Handicrafts Through The Ages* and *Bridal Gowns of the 20th Century*. . . . Volunteers make the world go round!!

The Friends of The Kingston Historical Museum is presenting *Digging Into Native History In New Hampshire* on Saturday, August 6th, at 1:00 PM, at the Kingston Town Hall. The presenter, Franklin Pierce professor Robert Goodby, will highlight the museum's collection in his lecture about the Native Indian Abenaki culture in this area.

Other business:

Gladys said that she will look into the cost of material that could be used to replace the old shades at the NML.

Ruth will submit the names of the members and officer appointments to the selectmen for 2016 – 2107. They are: Ruth Albert – president; Stacey Smoyer – vice president; Kathy Chase – secretary. We need to recruit new members in the immediate future.

Jef Flanders-McDougall announced that the court approved the *cy pres*, which authorized the Heritage Commission to oversee the maintenance of the Nichols Memorial Library per approval by the selectmen. (The Nichols Memorial Library is no longer the responsibility of the Library Board of Trustees.)

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Chase
Secretary