

Kingston Historical Museum

Minutes of the Meeting held at the Kingston Community Library on **June 21, 2022**

Members present: Ruth Albert, Kathy Chase, Christine Hume, Walt Roy

Friends present: Lesley Hume, Jef-Flanders McDougal

Ruth called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Meeting Items:

1. **The Heritage Commission Grace Daley Barn Restoration:** Lesley reported that Ernest (Ernie) Landry thanked the Museum for writing the two letters that the Museum Committee (Ruth) and the The Friends (Lesley) wrote in behalf of the Heritage Commission and its Kingston Moose Grant Application: Grace Daley Barn Restoration. He asked when the Museum began collecting carriages. Lesley and Ruth told him that the museum has been collecting carriages since its founding in 1970.
2. **The Hand Pumper – Update:** On Monday, June 6th, the Selectmen approved the Fire Department's request that the Hand Pumper be stored in a special display case in the new Fire Department facility. The Fire Department didn't agree to share the Hand Pumper with the Museum. May it go on record that the Museum Committee and Friends are disappointed in this agreement, especially as the Hand Pumper has been stored, cared for, and on exhibit in the museum since 1970. During Kingston Days and other openings, parents of young children and history enthusiasts have enjoyed a close look at and stories about the Hand Pumper. The Museum Committee and the Friends are also disappointed in not being included in the decision-making process. Ruth met the firemen at the museum (the historic Firehouse) on June 17th to pass on the Hand Pumper.
3. **Museum Donor Forms:** The Museum needs to update the Donor Form and/or the Donation and Disposition List to clarify how the donation will be handled in the event the museum can no longer retain the item. The Museum should provide options, allowing for the return of the items to the donor or for its sale with the proceeds specified to be directed to the Museum, or the Town general fund of Kingston, or returned to the donor.
4. **Secretary's Report:** May 27th Minutes: Kathy read the May 27, 2022 Minutes. Ruth made the motion to accept the Minutes. Christine seconded it.
5. **Technology – Update:** A contractor will visit the museum on June 23 to determine an estimate for installing cable. He will find out if Block5 will engage him. The work is covered under the Block5 proposal which was approved in the museum budget.

6. **The Museum Budget 2022 – Update:** Ruth reported that, to date, money has been spent on the line items Archival/Office Supplies and Computer & Equipment Supplies. The money spent to date is as follows:

Archival/Office Supplies - \$545.42; \$1,254.58 remaining

Computer & Equipment Support - \$3,174.99; \$720.01 remaining

Lesley reminded the members that the line-item Computer Support is for Past Perfect services. Also, several other lines will be spent in the 4th quarter when renewals occur.

7. **Museum Opening Schedule and Availability for the 2nd Saturday June thru October**

Commitments to date:

July 9th: Kathy, Lesley, Ruth, Steve, and Walt

August 13th Ruth, Lesley, Walt

September 10th Kathy, Ruth

October 8th Ruth, Lesley, Walt

8. **Kingston Days August 6th and 7th:**

- a. **The main program/presentation** this year is *The Story of Four Kingston Civil War Soldiers*. This is the story of the four Kingston, New Hampshire soldiers who were mistakenly identified as being from Kingston, Massachusetts. The presenter is Ken Liss, President, Brookline MA Historical Society.
- b. **New exhibits** include an update of last year's special exhibit on the ship U.S. Constitution. The additions are an exhibit piece on the first female reporter to board the U.S. Constitution in 1971 and the first female commander of the ship who is also the current commander. (Exhibit created by member Walt Roy) Sally Stevens, a new volunteer, has an interesting presentation concerning The Declaration of Independence. Lesley suggested that we should include the presentation during one of our open Saturdays.
- c. **Advertising:** The Museum will advertise its opening hours and program in the Kingston Days newspaper advertisement, The Town of Kingston webpage, and local newspapers. Lesley reported that the Committee will not be printing a Kingston Days program this year. Kathy suggested that we contact Civil War Round Table to invite them to the program.
- d. **The updated hours and volunteers for 2022:**
Saturday, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Sunday, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM.
All members present have volunteered to be docents on the weekend, exact days and times to be determined. Kathy said that she would ask family members to volunteer to help two - three hours. As of this writing, Joanna Chase and Haley Larsen have

committed to helping on Saturday and Jane McComb on Sunday. Kathy will ask Lucinda Marcoux and Kathy Dennis, both of whom volunteered last year in 2021, about their availability.

9. **Fundraising and Program Ideas:**

- a. **Special Invitation and Program for town employees and volunteers:** The committee discussed the possibility of having a special program for town employees and volunteers. All agreed it is a good idea.
- b. **Antique Appraisal Day:** It may be the focus of the September 10th opening. Ruth will contact auctioneer Daniel Olmstead about the possibility of his holding an event.
- c. **Holiday Pie Sales:** Kathy said she will contact Bill Fitzgerald, a relative, and the owner of Mann's Orchards about the possibility and logistics of selling Mann's pies for a fundraiser.
- d. **House Plaque:** A new town resident, who used to live in Amesbury, MA, asked the Museum staff if they sell historical house plaques. When staff told her that the museum doesn't have plaques for sale, she suggested that they contact a retailer in Amesbury who produces historical plaques. Apparently, many homes in Amesbury have plaques, both modern and historical. All agreed that selling plaques would be a good fundraiser for the museum and service to the town.
- e. **Community Conversations:** The Kingston Community Library librarian is interested in having the museum present a series of stories from the Kingston History book. The conversations will most likely begin to take place in the fall season.
- f. **History Tour/CLIO:** Steve said he would check the tour application CLIO to learn more about its service and the practicality of its use for museum purposes.
- g. **Historic District Buildings - book file:** Steve asked for identification and clarification of Sanborn Seminary/Sanborn Regional High School buildings on an aerial photograph he had of the historic school campus. His plan is to upload the photograph to a book on Historic District buildings he has in the museum's file. Walt reported that he now has additional photographs to upload to the same file.

Commented [KC1]:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Chase

