

Kingston Historical Museum Committee
Minutes of the Meeting held on December 5, 2023
Kingston Historical Museum – Nichols Memorial Library

Members present: Ruth Albert (via phone), Kathy Clark Chase, Christine Hume, Jef Flanders-McDougall

Friends present: Lesley Hume, Walt Roy

Selectboard Member present: Glenn Coppelman

Ruth called the meeting to order at 5:40pm.

Meeting Items:

1. President's Report:

- a. 2023 Year to Date Budget/Actuals and Details – The committee has yet to receive a budget report from the Finance office. Jef will get a report tomorrow morning.
- b. 2024 Budget Proposal – Jef will reach out to Budget Committee to the Museum's liaison Kim Donahue to find out if the Budget Committee has a concern about the Museum Committee's 2024 budget.

2. Secretary's Report:

Jef motioned to accept the Minutes as written with noted edits. Christine seconded it.

3. Old Business:

- a. New/Additional Museum Opening Dates: Committee members agreed to open the museum to the public the first Tuesday of the month, 6:30 – 8:00pm. beginning in January of 2024 and extend the second Saturday of the month opening, 1:00 – 4:00pm, to April and November. The museum will continue to be open every Wednesday, 9:00am – 12:00pm. The museum is also opened by request for an appointment.
- b. Warrant Article: The Museum Committee members agreed to write the citizen's petition/Warrant Article for funding Transcriptionist services with a 50/50 match between the Friends and the Town. Presently there are forty (40) oral histories to transcribe.
- c. The Tramp House: Jef wrote an article for The Carriage Towne News about the NH Preservation Alliances "Seven to Save" program and Kingston's Tramp House. As written in last month's Minutes, the NH Preservation Alliance allocates restoration funds, as necessary, to save tramp houses. Kingston has been identified as one of the towns with a tramp house. Jef has also contacted both the Historic District Commission (HDC) and the Heritage Commission (HC) to collaborate with the Museum on having the Tramp House included on the National Registrar of Historic Places.

- d. HC Cemetery Subcommittee: Lesley suggested that the Museum Committee find out the format in which the HC keeps records of The Plains Cemetery gravesites. It may be possible for the Museum to begin a data conversion of the cemetery records to Past Perfect. This could be a Museum Committee 2024 winter project and a contribution to the HC program. Jef said she would contact the HC for information.
- e. Kingston Wreaths Across America: On Saturday, December 16th, at 12:00pm. the Kingston's Veteran's Club will be honoring service men and women by placing wreaths in front of the Club, at the three cross streets on The Plains, and at the entrances at each of the town cemeteries. Jef asked if anyone would like to support the Veteran's Club in this effort. Lesley volunteered to help place wreaths at the cemeteries. Jef had already volunteered.

4. **New Business:**

- a. Nichols Memorial Library Maintenance – the basement floor: Lesley said that the company JSN Associates Inc. wrote a report in 2015 regarding basement slab renovation. It was written by Senior Structural Engineer Matthew J. Allen, P.E. for the Kingston Community Library Board of Trustees. In the report, Allen states that there has been substantial settlement below the current basement floor. He indicates that he is aware of the high ground water in the area and the marsh behind the building, He recommends that the existing slab subgrade be compacted, that large stones and refuse be removed to provide a level base of existing soils. The bottom of the stone foundation was measured at 12” below the top of the current basement floor. He recommends locating the bottom of the new concrete slab at the same elevation as the bottom of the existing foundation walls. The report includes further details with the recommendation that a geotechnical engineer be engaged to verify maximum seasonal ground water elevation and to review his recommendations so that a new slab can be installed. Lesley suggested that the town hire a company that has the knowledge and skills to install a new slab at a reasonable price. Glenn said that this should be a request in next year's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). He suggested that, in the meantime, the Museum Committee inform the Town Planner, Glenn Greenwood, of its goals. He also suggested that the Committee work with HC to get company quotes.
- b. Town Annual Report: Kathy and Jef volunteered to draft the Museum's report for the Town Annual Report.
- c. 2024 New Exhibits: Kathy suggested that the volunteers expand the Christie Poultry Farms exhibit to include related additional and interesting items recently donated by Jane Christie. One purpose could be to educate the public that Kingston was, at one time, *The Poultry Capitol of the World*. Christine suggested that the Museum promote the exhibit by placing wooden chickens on the lawn or on sites throughout out town. She added that perhaps the Museum could do an activity with live chickens. Jef also suggested that the volunteers create an exhibit on Women in Kingston. Lesley said that it should include Francis Fisher Wood, the founder of Kingwood Farm (1891), a dairy specializing in producing and bottling sterilized milk for infants.
- d. Old House Program: Jef said that two recent visitors who lived in old houses shared the issues that they had related to owning old houses. Their conversation inspired Jef

to suggest that the Museum sponsor an event related to old houses. She asked Glenn if he knew of someone who could speak at such an event. He suggested that the Museum contact the NH Preservation Alliance office at (603) 224 – 2281. The Alliance’s Community Preservation Services Manager, Andrew Cushing, would be an excellent resource, Glenn said. For a local resident’s perspective, Glenn suggested the Museum contact Susan Prescott. Glenn also suggested that the Museum have the event on a day when the museum is open to the public as a means to draw visitors. Kathy and Lesly agreed – The Friends have discussed having special events/speakers (e.g. a NH Humanities Program) on open days.

5. Friends Update:

Festival of Trees and Wreaths: Lesley thanked Jef and Christne for their effort in planning, organizing, and setting up for the first annual Festival of Trees and Wreaths. It was an excellent presentation. Jef said that she is pleased because her goal for this first year was to have 8-10 full trees; with a modification, the goal was met. At the recommendation of Heidi Corson, The Friends asked for table top trees (instead of full trees) and wreaths; They met the goal of having 10 items donated to raffle. In addition, Christine donated holiday items to sell. The profit was over \$500.00 and is considered a successful first year event. Some of the people who attended plan to decorate and donate trees or wreaths for next year’s event.

The Friends Meeting: The next meeting is Wednesday, December 13th at 6:30pm. Further details related to the festival and fundraising will be discussed.

6. Glenn Coppelman – Selectboard Update:

The Grace Daley Barn: Glenn reported that the new beams that Carston Springer donated have been delivered. He said that the plan is to work this winter. The last to be done is the roof. The Public Works Department (PWD) had suggested that it be a bright green metal roof; however, the HDC was not satisfied with the proposal; the HDC and the PWD agreed on a neutral color, a grey or brown. Walt said that he and Lesley removed a few remaining items that needed to be moved before work resumed. The Cobbler Shop, The Tramp House, and The Firehouse are temporary storage areas. Lesley reminded everyone that the container, the storage for carriages, has to be returned in early spring.

Other: Glenn said that poll workers are needed for the January 23rd general election. Town Clerk, Tammie Bakie, will hold a mock election training in early January. He also said that the Selectboard is presently interviewing Building Inspector candidates on Thursday of this week and Monday of next week

7. Other: Jef suggested that we volunteers create a calendar or chronological list of committee tasks and events.

Meeting adjourned at 7:17pm.
Respectfully submitted by Kathy Clark Chase

