Kingston Historical Museum Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held on April 2, 2024

Kingston Historical Museum – Nichols Memorial Library

Members present: Ruth Albert (via phone0, Kathy Clark Chase, Jef Flanders-McDougall, Christine Hume

Friends present: Lesley Hume, Walt Roy

Selectboard Representative: Laurie Szwed

Jef called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

The Committee welcomed Laurie to the meeting as this year’s Selectboard Representative.

Meeting Items:

1. Selectboard Update:

Laurie said that the Selectboard has included a time for departments and committees to give the board an update on their respective organizations the first Monday of the month, at 6:30pm, on a rotating basis. The department or committee representative will have an opportunity to give a ten (10) minute update on the organization’s goals and accomplishments. The updates/presentations begin in May.

The Museum Committee is glad to participate and will choose a month.

The Kingston Days Committee (KDC) had voted to donate money to the Kingston Historical Museum (KHM), Laurie said. It’s $300.00. Because it is an unanticipated fund, the donation has to be accepted by the Board first. A check to the KHM will be presented sometime in the next few months; the Museum Committee may determine how to use the funds. The KDC is going to buy signs and fences for town events. They will be stored in the town shed and available for use by all town departments and committees.

As regards the Volunteer Service Statement & Agreement, Laurie said that Paula Mahoney contacted Primex Insurance Company to clarify volunteer coverage. Laurie affirmed what was written in the March Minutes – Board appointed volunteers are not required to fill out the Agreement form. Volunteers not appointed, however, are asked to fill it out. Lesley said that the requirement to fill out/sign the form was withdrawn before and asked why it is being reinstated. She asked how many issues have there been that the Agreement form is required. The Friends volunteers who are not Board appointed and yet support the Museum Committee are concerned that the requirement places too much responsibility on them if an accident occurs. Jef remarked that such a requirement may discourage volunteers from volunteering for the Town. Laurie stated that its purpose is to mitigate risk.

Laurie said that the Selectboard suggested that the Museum be responsible for the tradition of awarding the Boston Post Cane to a resident. Presently a representation of the cane and a certificate is on display in the Town Hall. She thought that the presentation would be a good tradition for Heritage Day. Laurie gave the Committee an example of a plan/guide from the town of Hampstead. The Committee is pleased to write a plan to submit to the Selectboard for approval.

1. Chairperson’s Report:

Jef said that now that the Warrant Article to fund a part-time transcriptionist has passed, new business should be to do a search for a transcriptionist. Lesley said that Steve Sousa had contacted transcriptionist services and created a list which can be used as a resource. Ruth also suggested that the Museum contact other museums for resource suggestions.

1. Secretary’s Report:

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

1. Old Business:
2. Plains Cemetery – Data Subcommittee and the Museum’s Contributions:

Jef said that she has finished verifying/proofreading the names associated with the cemetery plots on the scanned pages. Jef said that in the next meeting with Ernie Landry of the Heritage Commission the Committee/Friends she will ask him what the project’s priority is at this time. The Museum volunteers could do biography research to verify information on the vital records, she said. The Gravestone Rehabilitation Training is May 25th at 10:00am.

1. Barn Update: Laurie said that the Town has contracted out for work to be done on the barn restoration. The work will start the first week of May. She will contact Phil to find out the specific timeline, what specifically will be done, and to verify that no changes will be made to the historic barn and el. She had spoken to Dan Doyle to ask that the storage container be in place for an additional month, through June. The Museum’s goal is to open all the Museum buildings by the 2nd Saturday in June. Jef suggested that a tree be planted on the grounds to replace the one that had to be cut down and that it be planted in memory of devoted volunteer Dave Taylor. His contributions to the Museum were primarily in the area of woodworking and creating Barn exhibits.
2. NH Preservation Alliance Presentation Update: No update to report
3. Nichols Memorial Library Basement Storage: No update to report
4. Communication/PR: Jef said that with lead time, an announcement can be sent to the School Superintendent office for posting. Kathy said that the Museum should continue to coordinate advertising events with the Kingston Community Library.
5. Strategic Plan: The Friends will work on the Strategic Plan with the Committee.

A special meeting will be held for this purpose; it is May 15th at 12:30pm at the Nichols Memorial Library (NML). In the meantime, volunteers will visit the Derry Museum of History on Wednesday, May 8th, at 1:00pm, to learn more about museum curation and programing.

1. Museum Opening, Saturday, April 13th – Jef and Walt will be on duty. Only the NML will be open for visitors.
2. New Business:
3. Election of Committee Officers: All voted in favor of the same slate of officers.

Chairperson: Ruth Albert

Vice Chairperson: Jef Flanders-McDougall

Secretary: Kathy Clark Chase

1. Seeking New Involvement, Committee and Friends:

This will be discussed on Wednesday morning.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Clark Chase