

Townsend Historical Society

Meeting Minutes

Hybrid Meeting – Town Hall and Conference Call

April 26, 2023

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:07 pm. Present: Ryan Hayward, Sharon Lacasse, Kara Fossey (remotely), Jan Johnson, Lee McTighe, Jerrilyn Bozicas, Sandra Starrett, Mary Jane Churchville, Clare Kauppi, Dana Blanchard and Kathleen Spofford.

II. Minutes: Minutes were reviewed from March 29, 2023. Jerri Bozicas made a motion to accept the minutes as amended, Sharon Lacasse seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III Strategic Discussion/Planning:

- A. Committee Formation Time: Ryan Hayward will send out a list of subcommittees to sign up to help with. Just e-mail Ryan with what subcommittee(s) you might be interested in serving on. Clare suggested adding a House Committee for oversight of the Reed Homestead to the subcommittees.

IV. New Business:

- A. Driveway – An Update!
- B. Member Meeting – Wednesday, May 17th at 7:00 pm at the Methodist Church to Review Plans for Campus with Gary Shepherd and the Vision Committee. Ryan did not have any further information. The Board agreed it would be helpful to have information to review before the meeting as this is the Vision of the Townsend Historical Committee and we need to have more information. Gary Shepherd may want to use the old Harbor Fire Station as storage for the old hearse, however, Clare mentioned that the land does not belong to the Town, only the building and if the building is not used for fire use, the building reverts to the owner of the land.
- C. Grants for Cooperage – Nashua River and Freedom’s Way. It is time to close out the grants, so more progress needs to be made on the Cooperage. The Grant is worth \$5,000.
- D. Cooperage Clapboards – Ready Soon, Will Need Volunteers to Help Transport/Stack on April 29.
- E. Reimbursements – Intuit, Mailing, and Cooper Shed reimbursements to Ryan. Clare made a motion to reimburse Ryan the total of \$736.33. Dana seconded the motion. Ryan recused himself from the vote. The motion passed with 10 yes votes.
- F. New Business from the Floor: Pearl Russell Fund money came in and the Annual report was written as is necessary.

Caitlin Mayrand was present. Her father owned the Wood Farm years ago and she mentioned it was now owned by the bank and wondered if THS could possibly purchase the property.

V. Reports:

- A. Treasurer/Financial Reports were reviewed. Clare made a motion to approve the reports. Jerrilyn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Acceptance of Report:

- B. Site Administrator – No report. The Personnel Committee will set up a date to review resumes.
- C. Buildings and Grounds – The Reed House is in the process of being cleaned for the open houses. Cooperage clapboards and Reed House driveway were discussed earlier in the meeting.
- D. Collections – Sheets and pillowcases have been completed. Sandi Starrett read a report from the Collection Committee regarding disposing of items from the Collection without approval. All items should be catalogued first and then decided whether they should be kept or not. She also mentioned that there are items for children to try on but they should not be from the collection. It was discussed that James Thompson and Sons make clothing for this purpose and we should contact them to see what the cost would be to have clothing made for children to try on. Also, it was mentioned that gloves should be worn when handling the items from the Collection. There will be a rack set up for the docents to select from. It was discussed having labels made for the loaner clothing.
- E. Programs and Events – The potluck dinner has been scheduled for June 2, 2023, as that is the only date we can have a demonstration by Luthier Volker Nahrmann of a bass similar to the Prescott Bass. It will be either at the Methodist or the Congregational Church. Sign up is available for anyone who would like to help organize the food for the potluck dinner.
Sturbridge Village is interested in coming to look at the THS collections.
Planning events a year in advance will allow THS to advertise events in magazines such as Johnny Appleseed flyer.
Lee McTighe would like the cemetery tours to be better advertised and wants to do a walk through the Riverside Cemetery in West Townsend in October.
- F. Arts and Craft Fair– Ryan posted that THS is looking for vendors and the Cooperage has requested flyers to hand out to their vendors.
- G. Constitution and Bylaw Subcommittee – Ryan would like the Committee to meet again. Dana asked if there was anything in the Constitution about what would happen if THS dissolved at some point in the future and if it was laid out what would happen to the property; Ryan answered there was at the end of the by-laws.
Clare Kauppi made a motion to accept all reports. Sharon Lacasse seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Acceptance of Other Reports:

VI. Old Business:

- A. Site Administrator Position – Committee Meeting Being Scheduled.
- B. School Programs – Gearing Up and almost ready to go.
- C. Calendar – Ready for Print. We need to check the cost of printing and set the price of the calendars. Jerri Bozicas will contact Nashoba Valley Technical High School to print the calendars next year.
- D. 2023 Program – In the Works
- E. Cooperage Exterior Repairs – Waiting for Spring, hoping the weather cooperates.
- F. Cooper Shed – Getting Ready to Finish Nailing/Painting, as noted above.

VII. Dissolution - Dana made a motion to dissolve the meeting at 6:30. Lee McTighe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen M. Spofford

