

Acworth Historical Society: Minutes, September 9, 2024

Attending: Marianne Nevelson, Liz Bascom, Lindley Hanson, Alva Grant, Ann Kosa, Cathy Bloxsom, Lorrie Ingoldgsby, Rick Koester and Alison Ferrell. Tom Allen attended as a special guest to discuss the Church Buildings.

Minutes/notes of the Aug 12 meeting were approved with the addition of Lillie LeBlanc as attending, and noting that Alison Ferrell and Liz Bascom were elected as Librarians. It was also decided that meeting agendas and meeting recaps will be posted on the website as they become available. There will be a new "page" on the website called Meetings that will display this information.

Church Update: Tom Allen reported that the church had to spend some money on the Church on the Hill (window issues), so they did not have a lot of leftover money to put into the two buildings down in South Acworth (Community Aid Building (CAB) and the church). The CAB had no structural damage due to the flood - it has a strong foundation. The Church has some minor issues that Tom thought could be remedied. The church recently had their annual meeting, but the status of the buildings was put off until a council meeting. The prevailing thought however, is to donate the buildings. The CAB has no constraints on it, but the Church falls under a Baptist umbrella, and it can only be donated to the Town. It seems that all involved are interested in the two buildings staying a part of the South Acworth "community". Next steps would be for the church council to decide to donate them, and then proceed to working with the Planning board and others to put in a warrant for town vote in the Spring of 2025. Of note - the two buildings are not on the historical registry so they can't get money from an LCHIP grant, but there might be other avenues for the new "owners" to get grant-type money. To understand some of the expenses of the buildings, Liz will report on insurance premiums.

Treasurer's Report: August Balance, \$27,074.44. Besides the usual income from the store, we had memberships paid, some through the website and some in checks. We also received a grant from the Boston Foundation of \$1500. Paid out was \$462 for the accountant (for 2023 tax filing).

Membership and Dues: From the letter that was sent to people from the Happy Hour, money from membership has been coming in. Several members paid dues right at the meeting! (Thanks Lindley, Rick and Lorrie). Alison will keep track of membership and for those who choose Yearly, reminders will go out every August to "update" their memberships.

Store Plaque: Yes, we should spend the money to get a nice plaque to celebrate the fact that the Village store has been placed on the NH Register of Historic Places.

Turn Around Barn (TAB): Great progress on its restoration! Painting is next. Need to identify a Saturday (or other day for retired folks who can make it). Alison will start an email chain for this. Rick pointed out that some dirt needs to be removed from the side of the building - it is up against the side. Also, if we can't take out the stump there, maybe we can grind it down. Brett Lord took care of the stump that was on the side of the store next to his driveway.

Mailing: It was decided that we should do a combined fundraising appeal and membership drive. One letter to speak to both. And if there was a donation above a certain amount (e.g. \$200), lifetime membership would be granted automatically. There is a company in Claremont that can help with mailing, Alison will look into the cost and potentially weigh that against sponsoring our own "stuff the envelope ourselves" party.

NH Charitable Foundation: If we can put the information together, it seems worthwhile.

Other items:

- Board should meet every month. That keeps engagement high.
- Board can receive and approve financial reports that detail the budget compared to actual. This is doable by the treasurer.
- Treasurer reviews and signs off financial statements. This is done monthly, triggered by statements from the bank

Events: Agreement to co-host a program with Cemetery Trustees called “From Slate to Granite” presented by local archeologist Gail Golec (she traces the history and development of cemetery monuments). Can Helen set that up? We should get that in the Newsletter too.

Alva reported that Mary Hildreth and Linda Christie are interested in organizing a Cemetery Walk again, but not until next year.

Alva suggested having the society sponsor a “Historic Houses on Hill Rd” walk. Stops would be made at some of the historic houses here today, and even stops at where a house used to be (like one of the old stores). Someone would speak at the front of the house about the history of it.

Could end at the library with refreshments. Everyone thought that would be a great idea, especially since Helen’s book has done most of the research required to supply the wording.

Could this also be a late October/November thing?

Lindley offered that someday she could do a talk on the Geologic history of the area. Another good topic!

Next meeting: Monday October 14, 4:30 in the town hall.

Minutes submitted by Alison Ferrell