

ACWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES

February 10, 2025

Present: Alison Ferrell, Marianne Nevelson, Loretta Meserve, Kathi Bradt, Jim Neidert, Helen Frink, Mark Mulhearn, Lillie LeBlanc, Lindley Hanson, Liz Bascom

Kathi called the meeting to order at 4:32 pm

Minutes of January 13th: minutes accepted

Treasurer's Report - Alison

\$31,088.06 Starting Balance January 1, 2025

\$2,838.00 Deposits (including donations, dues)

\$2,100.11 Withdrawals

\$0.84 interest

\$31,826.79 Ending Balance (includes remaining \$1,075 due to architect Dan Bartlett for Historic Building Assessment)

Alison reported that we got a letter in the mail from the state of NH to "renew" our non-profit status. This has to be done every 5 years. Due date is 12/31/25 - Alison will handle it - looks fairly simple.

An operating budget has been created for the Society. It is needed quite often when applying for grants. Additionally, we should have 5 Board members. There was a discussion about this - because we currently have 4 with titles. After the meeting - it was decided that we need to discuss this further, so it will be added to the next meeting agenda. There's also a need to have a membership count. Alison will work on that, in addition to identifying some of our larger donors in case the need for matching funds for grants is needed.

There was a discussion about member involvement. When the meeting notes are sent out for this meeting, a note will be added that a member can be involved or not. Just knowing that the society has a member's support (through dues) is totally enough!

The Acworth Community Charitable Trust is interested in a fundraising event - a Car show July 12 at the Village Store. We need to approve it because we technically own the property. We should display some of our information while they do their show. Do we agree on the show? Vote yes - July 12th. Keep this item on our agenda for doing a flyer and putting some stuff together to display. We will put this on our event page on the website.

Notes From the Dump(Terry Ward). Helen will put a snippet about the 1987 flood in the Community Newsletter. And we'll link that to a posting Alison will put on the website and Facebook. Library has some more - in the genealogy drawers to the right.

Links to other websites - Alison added Store, Trust, Town, His and Hers Farm. Discussion to add "Find a grave" to our website in addition to putting cemetery information since the town website does not have this. Alison will think about how to add this to the website, and discuss this at the next meeting.

Update on the Store: It is about 4K short for the generator. They would like to make it up with the appeal letter that they just put out. They will apply for a grant from the trust - may or may not be for something other than the generator (floor issues). The historical society had put 5k for the generator, with 10K to match a grant for the roof from the 1772 Foundation. We can apply to the trust for \$4,000 toward the match.

The society owes Marianne money for Fridge. There is repair for stair work going up to the apartment. Waiting for a bill from John O'Connor. John has been a big help and is willing to be the first guy we can call to do work. Ann is our point person for building related needs. She is working with store employees about things that need to be taken care of. Let's be proactive. Will do a continuous floor mat in the kitchen that helps with liquid disbursement - the store is taking point on this.

Insurance Inspection fixes: Ann called Ansul system people to get a name of people that can clean and inspect. Helen can also supply information from a contact she has. Jim is getting two CO detectors for the apartment. Jim will report back on the electrical work. **This is important - we need to respond back to the insurance company by the end of February.**

Grants: two grants rejected - Cogswell and Mascoma. The store might be able to apply to Mascoma themselves (that is their bank), and list the Society as their fiscal agent. 1772 application is almost done. Federal grants were closed down, but opened back up. There is a webinar that Helen will attend. Are we open to solar power? Helen can look into that from Bascoms and Lindley who have it. Keep on agenda.

Helen will look into congressional directed spending - federal level. Also see if Bank of Walpole (our bank) has anything.

We're on the list for charitable gambling income. The Gaming Commission rotates through charities that are eligible for support; hopefully our organization will bubble to top. Helen will also try to tease out donors from the NH Charitable Foundation who might be interested in Acworth and what we are trying to do.

Need a strategic plan for grants. Leave it on agenda, but we can work on it. We can brainstorm ideas. First start with updating our mission statement.

Add to our correspondence & website "please remember the Acworth Historical Society in your will or trust". Alison will take this on.

New event - Lindley to do geology talk - August 17th. Alison will add to the Event page.

Meeting adjourned 5:32.