

Acworth Historical Society: Minutes, August 12, 2024

Attending: Marianne Nevelson, Kathi Bradt, Liz Bascom, Alison Ferrell, Ann Kosa, Cathy Bloxsom, Lillie LeBlanc, Jim Neidert, Lorrie and Rick Ingoldsby, and Helen Frink.

Minutes/notes of the July 8th meeting were approved.

Dues: Annual dues will be \$20 per person, \$30 per household, and \$100 for a lifetime membership. Alison Ferrell will set up a database of member contact information and will track dues payment.

Election of Officers: The following officers were nominated: President, Kathi Bradt; Vice President, Helen Frink; Secretary pro tem, Lillie LeBlanc; Treasurer, Alison Ferrell. Ann Kosa moved acceptance of this slate of officers; seconded by Helen Frink, approved unanimously. Additional Board members will be Marianne Nevelson, Lorrie Ingoldsby, and Ann Kosa. Librarians will be Alison Ferrell and Liz Bascom.

Meetings will be the second Monday of the month, 4:30 PM at the town hall. These meetings are open to all.

Treasurer's Report: Balance, \$23,933. July donations totaled \$3,500. Donations from the July 19th Happy Hour were \$412. We received \$3,415 from the Acworth Community Charitable Trust for the Village Store Historic Building Assessment. Architect Dan Bartlett received \$2,700 for his work and is owed an additional \$660. Other costs of the Historic Building Assessment will come from the Preservation Alliance grant, after the study is completed.

Income: Store rent: \$500/month; apartment rent, \$800/month.

Expenses: heat (about \$3,000/year) and insurance (about \$5,000/year).

Marianne, Kathi, and Alison will work out procedures for receipts and bills payment.

Events: Liz Bascom outlined plans by the United Church of Acworth to start offering Friday night suppers next year. Various organizations would be responsible for food for one potluck supper, setup, and cleanup. We agreed to host the Friday night supper on July 11, 2025 at 6:30 PM. Our annual meeting would be held the following week. We discussed providing a program at the church supper to engage more community members.

Helen will explore co-hosting 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. We also discussed reviving the fall cemetery walks that many enjoyed.

Village Store Maintenance: Rick and Lorrie Ingoldsby will cut down and remove the tree at the west edge of the Turnaround Barn and possibly also the tree at the west edge of the store. They also volunteered to clear branches and old barbed wire from the east border of the store property. Any costs for disposing of wire or brush at the dump will be reimbursed by the Historical Society.

Ann Kosa described the need to level the area in front of the barn where dirt deposited by flooding prevents the sliding door from opening completely. Rick Ingoldsby offered to use his pressure washer to remove green growth on the front of the barn; best time for this work is after 7 PM when the store is closed.

Ann also mentioned constructing a small shed behind the barn for additional storage for the store. Brett Lord could give an estimate.

Community Garden Area: Lorrie Ingoldsby has created a horseshoe pit available to the public and would like to plant a butterfly garden to stimulate interest among school kids. Our website can advertise the horseshoe pit and available garden spaces.

Fundraising: Helen Frink asked to set up an organization profile with the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation. The purpose is to solicit donations from donor advised funds held by NHCF. Marianne Nevelson moved approval of this step. It was seconded by Jim Neidert and unanimously approved.

Helen will also apply for revenue from charitable gaming. Our local gaming venue is Wonder Casino on Emerald Street in Keene. Once approved as a nonprofit, we would be allocated a few specific gaming days, when we would receive up to 35% of the casino's income for those dates. We agreed to advertising our gaming dates on our website and also on a poster at the store.

Next meeting: Monday September 9th, 4:30 in the town hall.

Minutes submitted by Helen Frink