

ACWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES
JANUARY 13, 2025

Present: Alison Ferrell, Mariane Nevelson, Loretta Meserve, Kathi Bradt, Jim Neidert, Helen Frink, Mark Mulhearn, Lillie LeBlanc, Lindley Hanson, Claudia Istel

Kathi called the meeting to order at 4:40 pm

Minutes of December 10th: minutes accepted

Treasurer's Report - Alison

25,013.59 Starting Balance December 2024

7,198.25 Deposits (including donations, dues)

1,124.50 Withdrawals

.72 interest

31,088.06 Ending Balance (includes remaining \$1,075 due to architect Dan Bartlett for Historic Building Assessment)

Membership: Our fall appeal brought in 24 new members and \$6,480 in donations!

Alison has set up a gmail account, there is a contact module containing information about current contacts and a way to log donations and contact information. She will manage the list.

A friend of a store employee has offered some volunteer time at the store, and his company will match with a monetary donation to the AHS. Note: Volunteer work hours count toward a match for grants. We need to track who volunteered, how many ours, and work done. It's valuable, and it adds up.

Alison requests \$30 for reimbursements from mailing thank you letters to all donors: granted. She reached out to a mailing company to design a special Thank you card to donors. The cost is \$88 for 200 cards, granted.

Village Store State Register Plaque Ann and Mike Kosa are going to install the plaque in an appropriate spot in the Village Store, location TBD: near the existing plaque by the main entrance? High enough to discourage thieves?

Grant Applications submitted to date:

1. Cogswell Trust \$6,000 for generator for the store.
2. Mascoma Bank \$25,000 roof replacement and chimney repair as funding permits. .
3. 1772 Foundation \$10,000 requires match; Letter of Inquiry submitted; Match could come from Mascoma or \$4,000 from Acworth Trust (apply by April 1st)

Two estimates for the roof and chimney repair:

Ingram Construction: \$30,000 roof; \$22,500 chimney repair

Bret Lord: roof, 50-year asphalt shingles: 20,900; chimney repair \$9,000

Other funding sources: Northern Border Regional Commission; federal funds for items unrelated to historic preservation: Wiring, sprinkler system, ADA access. Helen will continue to explore and apply for funding and keep us informed. Priority is to use outside funds (not commit AHS money). One grant can be used to match another, e.g. Mascoma grant can match 1772 Foundation.

Kathi mentioned the town is working on the Hazard Mitigation Plan: the Store is a critical facility in the event of a town emergency.

Jim stated the kitchen, back room: the linoleum on the floor is breaking up. The Health Inspector has warned us about it.

Helen stated we need a few people who know to work on the store for a Building Committee that will advise on building needs and help manage grants for rehab work. We will keep this on the agenda.

Event Planning: Gail Golec: "From Slate to Granite," Saturday January 18th, Town Hall, 4 PM, \$200 honorarium. Lillie will coordinate the refreshments. Setup will be at 3:15. Alison will host.

Notes From the Dump: Lindley mentioned Terry Ward was a great writer and knew about Acworth. She would like to create a book and sell it as a commemoration to the town. Helen said the paper used would be difficult to scan, the material needs editing, and printing books is unlikely to make money. Lindley will pick the copies she donated to see how best to use them. Alison suggested posting excerpts on Facebook to stimulate interest and avoid expense.

Archives - Collections: UCA Records

Helen has sorted some of the archives and has sent material to other town historical societies. The church will take some of their records; Jim has offered to donate file cabinets.

The town needs a record keeping policy, according to Helen, as we transition from paper to digital records. She will prepare a list of Acworth materials in the NH State Archives: Kathi said if it's part of the town conversation, we should let the town handle it.

Website: Link to other organizations? Alison can link to the library, town, store (Facebook link). She will follow up.

Other Business: Lillie mentioned the apartment needs a new refrigerator. Marianne will handle this.

Claudia mentioned that the Washington Historical Society is having a Zoom presentation tonight. Paul Wainwright is talking about the impact of New England Meeting Houses.

Lindley Hanson will be presenting a talk in the summer of 2025.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:19 pm