

ACWORTH HISTORICAL
SOCIETY MEETING
Thursday August 11. 2025
4:30 PM. Acworth Town Hall

Attending: Liz Bascom, Mark Mulhern, Kathi Bradt, Helen Frink, Katy Haas, Marianne Nevelson, Ann Kosa, Lillie LeBlanc, Lori Ingoldsby, Claudia Istel, Lindley Hanson

Minutes of July 14 approved as submitted

Treasurer's Report:

July 2025 Beginning Balance - \$47,870.79
Deposits - Rent, Donations and Interest - \$1,776.19
Expenses - Mowing, Porta Potty - \$295.00
Donation to store for Generator - \$5,000.00
Ending Balance - \$44,351.98

Of that Balance:

\$7K is from NH Preservation Alliance for roof (another \$3K is coming at end of project)

\$4K is from ACCT to apply as matching funds to roof project

\$4K is from individual donations earmarked as matching funds for store roof

-----> still need to raise \$2K matching donations to close out roof funding

So "active" balance is - \$29,351.98

Alison updates:

- She spoke with Charlotte - we are all set for 8/17 use of Town Hall. No payment required
- Posters for 8/17 have been placed in the library, store and post office. Acworth Newsletter also had a half page poster
- No update on blog yet... still playing around on how to put it on the website
- No update on creating a pamphlet with our information. Will focus on that in October. Too much going on for me through the end of September.

Letter from Michael Hartman -Curator at Dartmouth's Hood Museum of Art

Iron box for carrying coals

I have been working on a project to refine our collections to align more closely with our mission as an art museum. As a result of that, we are deaccessioning works with the goal of gifting them to historical societies and museums where they can be used, interpreted, and appreciated. I'm writing to determine if the Acworth Historical Society would be interested in the attached work. According to our records, it was made in Acworth, so I thought that it might be of interest to you.

Kathi is grateful that they approached us, and we can store it. She wants it to be known that we can further acquire items.

Helen agrees we can store it, but there is a danger in accepting things, because many more inappropriate items may be donated. She feels we may display it at upcoming events. She would like to institute a collections policy.

Alison will make the arrangements to acquire the item.

Village Store Updates:

Ann reports the installation of the generator will be finished today. Bret Lord helped in the installation. Despite Liberty Utilities not showing up, an electrician was there to facilitate. August 27th is the day the generator will be hooked up. Total capacity of the propane tanks is 360 gallons. Total cost is not known.

The pizza oven hasn't been installed because repairs were needed. Skeet Pelletier is working on this.

The store is open regular hours thanks to volunteer help. The new hire will begin work tomorrow.

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Ann is grateful that Route 123A is open to traffic.

The front screened door is being repaired.

New air conditioners and industrial fans are making the store more comfortable.

A freezer is not working, but Ann is hopeful someone can repair it, but we may need a new freezer.
Ann decided to discontinue Porta potty rental.

Turnaround Barn rental: one rental last month.

Community Garden space: management? Funds? Mowing? Marcie Maynard, who runs the community garden, stated there was available money. Ann feels there should be more structure in rental of garden plots. Lindley mentioned if there was a camp ground in back of the store, it would generate income. Ann mentioned liability. Kathi said we can work this out in the winter. Marianne mentioned the planning board should be notified.

Upcoming Events

August 17 Geology Presentation: 4 PM Lindley said a donation jar would be good. No refreshments will be necessary.

Katy Haas film, La Frontiere (Maine/Quebec borderland) This 2022 36-minute film is about the communities on the border of Maine and Canada, about how an airfare base and COVID affected the community. The presentation will be on Sunday, October 5th-4 PM. Cider and donuts will be served. Alison will be responsible for posters.

Grants:

Helen met on July 21 with Ian Carmichael, NH head of federal Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) grant program: no funding for solar or renewable energy; housing is not a priority. The store's contributions to the community will be emphasized in the application. Info about payroll and sales will be appreciated. Cellulose insulation in the walls will be included in the grant application. She needs a support letter from the ACP (Ann), and info on how to transition to propane. She will contact Bret Lord about Matt Beam Plumbing and Heating.

Kathi asked if a letter from the town would help, and Helen agreed. The pre-application is due on August 29, the final is due on October 10th. Who is willing to work on a store building management team? Helen says this entails asking people to help her get the information she needs for grants. September 11th is the site visit with LCHIP at 10-12 am.

Kathi said the Friday Night Supper was a huge success, and exceeded expectations

Tickler List: Formalized Garden Plot Rental
Campground in back of the store
Strategic Plan
Collections policy

Next meeting is Monday, September 8 at 4:30 PM in the town hall.

Meeting adjourned: 5:23 PM