

Falmouth Historical Society Minutes

August 7, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM.

Present were: Betsy Whitcomb, Erin Cadigan, Ron Scorsone, Rich, Rick, David Farnham, and Sue Farnham.

Secretary's Report

The July minutes were approved by the Board.

Number of members pending renewal as of August 7, 2018 is 26. Current members total 70. We will send out 26 renewal letters in late August.

Treasurer's Report

The \$1000.00 grant from the town for a Falmouth 300 event has not yet been issued to us. David will call Melissa Tryon about this

\$400.00 in checks has been deposited but have not yet cleared.

David is continuing to develop a budget for next year. We will need a larger allowance for maintenance next year.

Old Business

Sue and David attended the Trolley Museum Gala. This provided an opportunity to chat with other people from nonprofits and gain some ideas. One thing they learned was when fundraising becomes successful, FHS will need to think about how to up an endowment. Phil Morse appreciated Erin's suggestions re: the 2020 Narcissus tour.

The repeat tour of east Falmouth went well. It sold out. The food and the lemonade were well appreciated. One of the men on the tour builds computers and he gave us a computer for our data base. (We need to send him a TY note.)

The Saturday open hours in July were moderately successful. Some people from other historical societies visited and our hosts had a chance to chat with them about their experience. Afternoon hours, particularly on Sunday, were recommended as these tend to draw more visitors.

Sign project: The sign company is waiting to hear from Town Hall. The town just changed ordinances on signage.

Maintenance (scraping, priming, and paint) is needed on the kitchen window, front door, soffits on the barn, and the back door. The back of the house needs power washing as it is sporting mold and mildew on the siding. The old paint will likely need to be checked for lead. The ramp also needs power washing and sealing. Rick and Fred have power washers. Rich thinks some of his students can help.

Ramp renewal: we have not heard from the Boy Scout.

Driveway improvement: Betsy will talk to Ted Asherman.

The second floor of the Museum needs a maintenance inventory. Ron has offered to do this.

Archives: Ron and Erin are not happy with the current computer system. It is clunky, not user friendly and not intuitive. They are having a hard time getting it to work and link up with the internet. In comparison, PastPerfect offers a donor data base (which the current one does not have). The cost is about \$2000. PastPerfect is the “gold standard” system among museums. It will do loan agreements, donation letters, fundraise, etc. It may also have the potential to replace Wild Apricot (online Web-based membership and communication system). We can schedule a demo and look at YouTube videos about this system. Would a grant be helpful to fund this?

Donations: Rich had a discussion today with Ann Oleson Hall about her offer to donate the 5 foot long model bark (four-masted ship) that her grandfather built. Her grandfather lived in Falmouth for a while, and then moved to NY where he likely built the hanging model for a Lutheran church there. He worked for one of the Bath shipyards, and it is a replica of the “William L. White” which was built in Bath in 1880. We have declined to take the model, since it is large and is tenuously related to Falmouth history. Rich reached out to Tall Ships Maine and they would like to have it. It is in storage in Huntington Station, New York. Ms. Hall lives in Redlands, Ca, and will be coming here next year for her 60th high school reunion. She says her son, who lived in New Jersey, will drive it up. It will cost her about

\$1000 to package. At this point she will take this discussion to the Tall Ships people and our role has ended.

Erin reports that last Monday a man came in with furniture to donate (Victorian settee, player piano, Victrola, etc. Erin expressed doubt that FHS would be interested in these items which do not have a solid connection to Falmouth history. The Board agreed.

New business

The Annual Meeting is October 16. It will be held at Town Hall from 7 to 9 PM. Possible speakers to invite are Marge Devine, Wayne Cobb, and Lee Hanchett. We would like to have them each give a 10 minute talk on their Falmouth research.

Potential people to invite to the board: Sherry Fistal and John Moon (wrote a book about the history of Portland). We would like to find chairmen for hospitality, programming, collections, archiving, exhibits, advertising, fundraising, maintenance, and a bookkeeper.

Upcoming Tercentennial events are:

September 16, "A Deserted and Conquered Country: Falmouth's Tumultuous Birth," lecture by Zachary Bennett, part of the Changing Landscapes, Shifting Tides: The Story of Falmouth Event Series, presented by Stantec. Lunt Auditorium at OceanView, Lunt Road.

The (west) Falmouth Historic Sites Guided Tour, hosted by Falmouth Parks and Community Programs and the Falmouth Historical Society is September 26 at 2 PM. The "test drive" is Sept 5 at 2 PM.

September 27, Harvest Moon Farm Party to benefit Falmouth Land Trust

TBD. Exploring Falmouth Cemeteries, presentation and launch of Falmouth Cemetery Guide, hosted by Falmouth Memorial Library

TBD. "Researching Falmouth's Quakers," presentation by Wayne Cobb, hosted by the Falmouth Historical Society, will be at the library.

The Annual Falmouth Fire-EMS Open House and Touch-a-Truck at Central Station on Bucknam Road is Oct 13.

TBD. Talk/multimedia poetic presentation on the Danish.

Rick has found a professional mechanic to look at the fire truck and repair it, but we will need to transport it over to his place. Someone should be trained to drive it so as not to damage it. Fred has driven it before. Anne Gagnon's husband knows how to drive it and may be able to do the training.

Fundraising discussion:

We could ask Rick to do a drawing for notecards or a picture or coasters to sell. The feeling of the board is that it should be something unique to FHS and/or Falmouth.

We have an opportunity to update the Wallace book on Falmouth before we run out of them. We are out of the cookbooks, which have continued to be popular. The board would like to get them reprinted.

Erin offered to do a presentation on Abraham Lincoln next year around Valentine's day.

We also had a discussion about our mission. We will talk more about this in the future.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Farnham, Secretary.