

The Falmouth Historical Society
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Falmouth Heritage Museum—February 4, 2020

The meeting came to order at 6:42 p.m. Present were Betsy Whitcomb, Erin Cadigan, Sally Farneth, David Farnham, and Sue Farnham.

Secretary's Report

Minutes. The minutes for the January meeting were reviewed and approved.

Membership. There are 99 active members and 22 lapsed. The drop in membership is expected. February is our big renewal month. We will be sending out renewal letters with a newsletter shortly after which our membership numbers should return to normal.

Online Activity. We responded to five requests this month (two local history, one property history, and one "other").

Treasurer's Report

Finances. The Society has a balance of \$4,528 in its cash accounts and \$20,944 with the Foundation.

We successfully converted from the "Essentials" version of QuickBooks Online to a non-profit license for QuickBooks Advanced. Following the conversion, old accounts suddenly reappeared. (They had been set up by Fred in the desktop version of Quickbooks but weren't supported in the basic version of QuickBooks Online.) One of the newly "discovered" accounts was PayPal. Even though our online payments migrated to Affinipay, we still have a PayPal account in case we need it. We resumed tracking it as a cash account starting with this fiscal year.

QuickBooks Advanced also supports budgets. We now have an actual vs. budget performance report generated by QuickBooks. Previously it was done by hand.

Committee Reports

Programs. We are looking at having an educational event in spring covering architecture and features of historical homes.

Leland Hanchett would like to do a book talk on the “Connecting Maine’s Capitals by Stagecoach.” His book was endorsed by the Maine Bicentennial Commission and describes one of the primary means of travel in 1820. This raised the possibility of offering a series of three talks. Mr. Hanchett’s would be one. There are also two children’s books with local themes. Jean Flahive’s “Teddy Roosevelt, Millie, and the Elegant Ride” features the Narcissus interurban trolley that ran through Falmouth and was published in December. Jean-Claude Redonnet’s “My Market by the Bay” features Town Landing Market, includes the trolley that ran along the Foreside, and was also published recently. Erin will talk to Jeanne Madden about doing this jointly with the Library. To consider time and place of the talks, the Library will close in March at Mason-Motz and reopen in the new library in May. We can also consider using Town Hall as the venue.

Another idea for programs is to do a Falmouth old house tour.

Museum Operation & Exhibits. We plan to be open two days a week beginning in May. Hours are TBD.

Collections.

Catalog. Ron’s time this month has been absorbed by facilities issues.

Tidewater salvage. The Farnhams are offering their van to transport salvaged items to the Historical Society; we’d also like to find someone with a pickup. Erin will talk with Nathan Poore about having Public Works do the transport for us, in which case none of us will need to use our vehicles.

Forecaster. We have a request to provide six short articles accompanied by pictures, on things that happened in Falmouth between 1820 and 2020. We could use items from the mural project.

Local History.

We received a request from the owner of Bucknam Tavern. Restoration is underway and they're looking for information about its past.

Communications.

Newsletter. The next newsletter, based on material from the annual meeting, will be ready to go out with the renewal mailings.

Merchandise.

Cookbook. It will cost \$12-\$17 per book to self-publish a cookbook ourselves. We plan to charge about \$25 which seems to be the price point for similar cookbooks.

Online Sales. Shipping requires volunteers and a process. An option is to look at having a third party perform this function; Erin reported on how Falmouth schools handle this.

Museum Buildings & Grounds. Ron is not here tonight due to illness.

Spring cleaning. Holly MacEwan is the contact person for volunteers at the high school. Sue will create a list of what needs to be done and how it can be organized; Erin can market it.

Technology.

Online Records. The Society's online records are accessible to all board members. Setting up your computer to access those records is more complicated than simply accessing a web page. The Society's Technology Committee is standing by to assist board members with getting access to our online records.

Website. David has done a general cleanup of the web pages to present a more consistent appearance. He has also made internal structural changes to support additional content. Neither should be noticeable.

General Topics

Goals & objectives. The revised goals were accepted by the Board.

Committee structure. The proposed committees were accepted by the Board.

Educational Project. Last fall we had a request from the Montessori School and we were not prepared to do it. Sally Farneth, a retired schoolteacher, offered to develop a program. She is initially targeting younger children but it is flexible and can be adjusted for older kids. She is focusing on the 1820's. Topics are: clothing, houses/barns, transportation and animals, and occupations. She needs additional material including pictures (houses or object of yesteryear and of today), access to resources (at the Museum and elsewhere), and artifacts that are not so self-explanatory (that children will need to figure out what they were used for). The board was impressed by all that Sally has accomplished so far.

The meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Farnham
Secretary