

The Falmouth Historical Society
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Zoom Meeting—April 6, 2021

The meeting came to order at 6:35 p.m. Present were Betsy Whitcomb, Carol Kaufmann, David Farnham, Rich Meserve, Ron Scorsone, Sally Farneth, and Sue Farnham.

Secretary's Report

Minutes. Draft minutes will be circulated for review by the Board.

Membership. Our active membership is 85. The slight drop from last month is due to members who lapsed as part of our renewal cycle.

Treasurer's Report

Finances. We have sufficient cash in our operating accounts to make it through the fiscal year. We will withdraw funds from savings for the next fiscal year in June or July; the amount will depend upon the estimated expenses to reopen the Museum in July.

The Society has a balance of \$4,257 in its operating accounts and \$17,709 with the Foundation. Our accounts payable is \$1,573.01 (of which \$1,400 is our annual insurance for the Museum in flight).

There was a short discussion about insurance.

Our year-to-date expenses are tracking a smidge under budget. Our projected fiscal year-end balance is \$166 above target.

Committee Reports

Programs. Sally mentioned the teachers had expressed interest in having an overlay of old maps showing present road locations. David said we had done something similar for the Bucknam Tavern presentation. He added that having a set of maps showing the evolution of Falmouth infrastructure (roads and bridges)

would be straightforward to create and would serve as a useful resource for presentations and exhibits.

Museum Operation & Exhibits. The Board agreed that the Museum would re-open on Tuesday, July 13th, conditions permitting. It would remain open one day a week through October. Visitors would be limited to a one family group at a time.

There was a discussion about weekends. We tried weekend hours for an entire month in 2019 but drew few visitors. It seemed that people have more things to do on weekends.

Collections.

Catalog. Ron said that it had been a “maintenance month” for the catalog database. He had noticed some anomalies in the catalog entries and found these were caused by slight differences in the way the data had been entered. He went through the entire database, standardizing the entries. Now everything shows up properly and Ron is ready to start transcribing accessions from 2006.

Local History. We responded to two queries from the community last month.

The (long awaited) website expansion is underway. A new “Research” tab has been created and 19 items have been added to the “Historical References” and “Historical Maps” categories. “Newsletters” and “Local Research” categories have been added to the “Members Only” tab and 16 items have been added. A general cleanup of the website was done.

Communications. Nothing significant to report.

Merchandise.

Cookbook. There were two meetings in March. Three sets of corrections have been returned. Creation of the galley proof for the first section is underway.

Museum Buildings & Grounds. The sump pump has been doing its job. We need to schedule “spring cleaning” for the Museum but it would be prudent to break up the work so we don’t have a crowd there.

There was a discussion about turning on the utilities that had been shut off at the end of 2019.

Technology. There was a general clean-up of the Society website preparatory to the expansion.

Fundraising. David laid out a series of activities to strengthen the financial condition of the Society over the next six months. One activity is a campaign to attract new members. Oceanview was suggested as a potential community of interest. We should also place posters at town hall, the library, etc. When we set up a table at the election, we will have posters telling our story. It was suggested that offering treats would draw more people to the table. He plans to wait until the turn of the fiscal year—when we can produce a short annual report—before approaching corporate donors.

General Topics

There being no new business, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Farnham
Secretary