

# The Falmouth Historical Society

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Zoom Meeting—April 7, 2020

The meeting came to order at 6:30 p.m. Present were Betsy Whitcomb, Ron Scorsone, Sally Farneth, David Farnham, and Sue Farnham. Rich Meserve and Erin Cadigan were absent.

## **State of the Society**

David began with a discussion of the pandemic's impact upon the Society. The Museum is closed indefinitely—until our civil and medical authorities tell us it is safe to re-open and the conditions under which we must operate. Many of our volunteers and visitors are in categories at extra risk to the coronavirus.

The programs we planned for spring and summer are on hold. Fortunately, none of our volunteers have been infected but two Board members have been affected by state and community responses. Neither Rich nor Erin will be able to participate fully in Society activities until life returns to some semblance of normalcy.

The Society entered this year with two vacancies on the board. David announced that Sally Farneth had graciously consented to joining the Board. A motion was made and seconded. The Board voted unanimously (including a proxy vote by Erin) to elect Sally to the Board.

## **Secretary's Report**

Minutes. The minutes for the February meeting were reviewed and approved. (The March meeting was cancelled due to schedule conflicts.)

Membership. There are 94 active members and 30 lapsed. Our membership numbers should return to normal after we send out the renewal letters.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Finances. The Society has a balance of \$3,786 in its cash accounts and \$20,894 with the Foundation. Our expenses are running about \$1,000 over budget; most

of this is due to utility costs arising from the difficulty we had shutting off our heating at the beginning of winter.

The IRS Tax Exempt Organization Search database now correctly reflects our status as a public charity and includes a copy of our determination letter. They have not yet posted our tax returns.

We submitted our annual report to Maine.

## **Committee Reports**

Programs. We have three potential programs:

- Class on identifying architectural features of old houses
- Book events involving local authors (with the library)
- Tour of old houses in Falmouth

These are in-person events. All are on hold for now.

Museum Operation & Exhibits. The Museum will not re-open as planned on May 4<sup>th</sup>. We will wait and see what guidance comes from civil and medical authorities.

Collections.

*Catalog.* Ron has PastPerfect running on the laptop and is getting it configured. He provided a brief overview of how accessions and cataloging are handled.

*Tidewater salvage.* We will wait to hear about plans to proceed with demolition of the buildings.

Local History.

The pandemic appears to have grabbed everyone's full attention. We have not received queries from the community lately.

David is working on additions to the Society website.

- *Get Involved* tab will include detailed information (including "want ads") for volunteers.

- *Research* tab (new) will provide guides to conducting family and property research in Falmouth (including Ancient Falmouth). This is based on the responses we send to queries from the community.
- *Documents* tab (new) will provide public access to references related to Falmouth history including out-of-copyright books and links to digital maps. This is the companion to the research tab.
- *Members Only* tab will include a new section dealing with Advanced Research topics including extracts from research we conduct in response to queries from the community.

Board members can see the work in progress by going to the Society website and clicking on “Admin view.”

#### Communications.

*Newsletter.* The next newsletter is still being drafted.

#### Merchandise.

*Cookbook.* The committee resumes meeting (via Zoom) next week.

*Falmouth-themed merchandise.* A member of the community admired a tote bag being sold by Cumberland Historical and asked whether we had anything similar. A Falmouth-themed bag would be a nice addition to our stock of merchandise. We checked with Cumberland Historical. They pointed us to Brian Gilbert and said their most popular items were the tote, water bottles and coffee mugs. We will follow up with BGA.

#### Museum Buildings & Grounds.

Re-opening of the Museum is on hold. We will reschedule spring cleaning when it becomes prudent.

#### Technology.

Activity on the website is steady but light. Activity on Facebook is lighter than usual due to our lack of posts.

The Society's toolbox of online technology has expanded:

- *Zoom*. We obtained a one-year non-profit license for Zoom Meeting Pro video-teleconferencing service.
- *Microsoft*. We obtained a free non-profit license for Microsoft 365 (previously Office 365). This includes licenses for the Office suite of products for the Society's computers.

Migration to the Advanced edition of QuickBooks Online is complete.

### **General Topics**

Educational Project. Sally Farneth, a retired schoolteacher and our newest member of the Board, presented an overview of her work on developing material for use with school-aged children.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Farnham  
Secretary