

The Falmouth Historical Society

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Zoom Meeting—November 1, 2022

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

President's Remarks

David commended the Society's volunteers for their amazing work this year. They accomplished, or made substantial progress, on everything planned for the year. Everyone pulled more than their own weight. He wouldn't have believed it possible that we could have done so much.

Secretary's Report

Membership. Our active membership is 98—the same as in October. With renewals rolling in, we moved 16 members from “pending renewal” to “current.”

Treasurer's Report

The Town of Falmouth is extending a new sewer line down Woods Road. It will run alongside the road directly in front of the Museum. Public Works said that connection to the town sewer is mandatory. The septic tank must be removed or filled in. The City of Portland estimates the cost of a new sewer hookup as \$5,000 to \$12,000. Given the distance and the huge quantity of rock debris used in the fill, the cost will probably be towards the upper end of that range. The cost of connecting the to town sewer will cost more than our entire operating budget.

The Barn and the doors of the Museum also need to be repainted.

These are large, one-time, non-discretionary costs. Once we get hard estimates, we can apply for a grant.

Finances. The Society has a balance of \$6,764 in its operating accounts and \$21,588 with Maine Community Foundation. Accounts payable is \$228 and sales tax payable is \$49. Our operating accounts contain 157 days of cash. Our estimated end of year balance is \$779. Our net current assets (excluding long-

term assets) declined by \$963. Our actual expenses are \$415 over budget, largely due to building maintenance expenses. Our net operating revenue is a negative \$803.

Committee Reports

Programs.

Recent Events.

- SOLVE (leaders of area historical societies). FHS hosted a hybrid meeting at Falmouth Memorial Library. Two members of the Maine Historical Board participated.
- Meet & Greet at OceanView. We presented an overview of what we do, emphasizing how history can be fun, in the hope of attracting new members (and volunteers).

Both meetings went well. We now have general presentation about the Society on the shelf.

Upcoming Events.

- Election Day. Weather-permitting, we plan to have a table outside the polls under the canopy. The town expects sizable turnout for a midterm election.
- Merry Mix 'n Mingle at Legion Park. We plan to have a table under the tent.

Regarding the annual meeting, Carol reported that the Russell Room is closed at 6:30 p.m. If we wanted to hold it later, we could try Town Hall or the Congregational Church. We will reserve the Russell Room as a backup while checking to see if Town Hall is available.

Museum Operation & Exhibits. The Museum and Barn are now “semi-closed.” They are still open by appointment until winter arrives. During the summer, the buildings were open during 18 weeks from May into October. There were 15 public days. We received 155 visitors (including the second-graders).

Carol suggested that we engage with Falmouth Community Programs to resume the guided tours. The board applauded her suggestion.

Collections. The Boy Scout Eagle project to photograph the artifacts is done. The photographs and a spreadsheet with the inventory are on the shared drive.

As photographs and other information are added to the digital catalog, the Society will have taken a giant step towards making the goal of making our collections more discoverable and accessible by the public.

David was concerned about the research library. It is reasonable to expect that Falmouth artifacts would be found at the Falmouth Historical Society. Books and document collections are a different matter. The public has become accustomed to using the MaineCat statewide catalog. The Maine InfoNet Library System (MILS) for small libraries is intended for circulating rather than reference libraries; it is not a good fit for FHS. Piggybacking on Falmouth Memorial Library's MINERVA catalog would be a heavy lift for both organizations. David concluded that, for the time being, FHS' research library—books, serials, binders, folders, other reference materials—will continue to be cataloged in PastPerfect.

Local History. We responded to five queries during the past month. There were no additions to reference materials on the website.

Communications. The autumn newsletter went out via postal mail with renewal notices. An email blast went to the membership with a link to the online newsletter and announcing the Meet & Greet. There were two posts on the Society Facebook account.

David noted that the WildApricot's email tool is awkward to use but it does a good job. The appearance of emails using the Bulletin template is satisfactory. There was a short discussion of the style in the Word template for the newsletter. Extra newsletters will be left at Town Hall, Falmouth Memorial Library, and OceanView.

Merchandise. The final draft of the cookbook is in review. Material for 10 pairs of the two volumes is being ordered. There was a discussion about production.

Additional beanies and totes have been received.

Putting on his treasurer's hat, David gave an overview the economics of sales by our "bookstore." Maine and federal tax authorities pay close attention to the Society's income from sales. Reporting must be detailed and exact.

Museum Buildings & Grounds. Ron reported that the basement is nearly done—it is cleaner than it has been in years. He will install the sump well sensor to alert us overflows soon. He decided that we shouldn't use a backflow valve due to our configuration.

The septic cleaning is done. The gutter cleaning and repairs are done. Next comes winterization. There was a discussion about a dehumidifier in the basement.

Technology. Nothing significant to report.

Development. Nothing significant to report.

New Business

There being no new business, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Suzanne Farnham, Secretary