

Minutes of the Warner Free Lecture Meeting  
Monday, October 14, 2015  
Hildreth House

Present: Pat Jennings, Tom Aciukewicz, Lisa Foley, Mary Maxwell, Sheila Simollardes,

Not present: Tim Clark

The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m.

The minutes from the August 2015 meeting were reviewed by the board. Pat moved to approve the minutes as amended, vote to approve was unanimous.

### **Past Events**

Hirayama lecture was very well-received and very educational. It was a great call for our first 125<sup>th</sup> celebration series.

### **Items for next Lecture**

David Nanto and his play, Much Ado about Love October 23, 2015, acted out for us with local talent. No cost as of yet. Publicity is set...we'll reach out to Martha Brooks to see if Bromfield drama students would be interested. Food and table setup is taken care of. Mary and Pat can't be there, but Lisa, Sheila, and Taz will be there. We'll do a little survey to see if posters are effective.

Other upcoming lectures

#### **Dr. Russell Potter- the lost Franklin voyage in search for the Northwest Passage**

January 22 or February 26 2016. The original WFL lecture was by Justin Winsor, so historical society is a great match. Lisa is working on the dates and costs. Pat has contacted historical society for co-sponsorship. Estimated cost of \$200.

#### **Alan Banks National Park Ranger from the Olmsted building/library in Brookline**

March 11 will lecture on Olmstead landscape. We're scheduling for March 11, 2016. \$200 cost. Mary will follow up with Conservation Trust for co-sponsorship.

**George Mutter – Secret of the Czars – the Russian Empire in 3-D (stereo-optic images from the Old Russian Empire).** Confirmed for April 8, 2016. Cost should be \$300. We will try to co-sponsor with Gordon Lankton (the Russian Icon museum director).

**Reviewed minutes of August 2015 for action item status.**

Tim agreed to draft language for future warrant article amending the composition of the WFL trustees to allow the composition to become "six members" and lose the described gender specificity - TBD

Discussion of a generic email (@Harvard.ma.us) was unresolved. Taz to report on conversation with Julie Doucette at Town Hall. – still TBD. Also, Taz will also forward new info to Julie Doucette about current members (Lisa is chairperson after Brian).

### **New Business**

- In looking to expand publicity, we discussed several ideas:
  - Having a booth at the Flea Market in 2016 – Taz to explore cost (can it be free?) with Sue Robbins
  - We'd like to run another paid ad in the Harvard Press, probably in January. Lisa to explore/research.
- When to start next season's lectures? We agreed to begin in September (2016) again, not October, since it would be a short fall season with limited Fridays available in November and early December.
- We discussed if there were other Lowell institute connections to Harvard back 125 years ago. Tabled for now, but could be source for future lectures.
- Wondering about who owns the content of the WFL website for the town and if we could manage it ourselves, with more tailored information about what the WFL is all about, its history and its purpose.

### **Other Lecture Ideas to Explore**

From May Meeting: Taz will contact John Schumacher-Hardy, a Lancaster, Ma author who has a new book out about local history. In addition Taz will contact Heather Jordan to see if there's potential for a lecture on poetry of the 1890s.

Bees seem to be popular and Taz will contact Worcester County bee inspector Ken Warchol about if he presents lectures.

Sheila knows an artist who spoke at Fruitlands recently and she will reach out to discuss if this could turn into a lecture.

Maybe have a winter storyteller night – Mary will contact her friend who is a storyteller to see if this could lead to one or a series of annual storytelling lectures.

Wondering if there is a Mass cultural council list of local writers/artists that might be interesting source to find lecturers.

Sheila confirms Peter Kristoff (photographer who did a photo-based lecture on climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro) has another slideshow he might be able to present. She will reach out and let us know.

We adjourned the meeting at 7.05 pm.

Next Meeting: January 4, 2016 @6pm at the Hildreth House