

## Newbury Historical Society

### Board Meeting

March 1, 2007

Board members present: D. Geddes, J. Grocott, D. Pavlicek, B. Steward, M. Weiler and W. Weiler  
Guests: Donna and Dick Matte

President Bill Weiler called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

Minutes of the meeting of January 4, 2007 were accepted with the addition via e-mail of Kathleen Hurley's name to the list of guests present.

Treasurer's Report: 1/4/07 – 3/1/07, presented by Treasurer Margie Weiler.

The General Account increased from \$ 4,865.13 to \$ 4912.98.

The Life Member Account remained at \$ 3,800.00.

The Conservation Fund increased from \$ 1,116.54 to \$ 1117.15.

Total assets increased from \$ 9,781.67 to \$ 9830.13.

The report was accepted as presented.

Margie reported that she is now able to generate appropriate thank you letters from Past Perfect and has sent them to 10 or 11 donors, two of whom then sent additional donations.

### Old Business

- Barbara has not yet received the information from Diana regarding the 18 businesses in Newbury but will do so in April.
- John reported on two meetings of the Sherman-Ayer History Club and presented maps dated from 1774 detailing the transition of Newbury's borders to the smaller territory that we have today compared to the original land of Fishersfield. He also presented an article from a 1920 edition of the *Granite Monthly*. Both will be stored in Sherman Hall.  
The Newsletter is behind schedule. If Barbara is to put it together instead of Kathleen then it must wait until April.
- The new logo is not ready – Bill will try to have it for the Newsletter.
- Motion passed to purchase the Past Perfect upgrade to 4.0.
- Bill presented the Selectmen with a request for \$ 9,500 to conduct an architectural study of the three buildings in South Newbury. This request has been put on the warrant for Town Meeting. Such a study will include structure, electrical and mechanical systems, and the needed addition of bathrooms and handicapped access to Town Hall and the Grange. Additionally the water supply must be evaluated to see if it will be sufficient for 3 buildings. Potential future use could be meeting space in Town Hall and possibly a museum in the Grange. Dick asked about National Historic Register status for these buildings: Bill responded that work was started for State Historic Register status.
- The project to identify and hang date plaques on historic houses appears to be on hold until spring, and the proposed table at town meeting will not take place.
- Deane updated us on his proposed chapter for the Master Plan. He sent out 80 letters but received few responses – his hope is to include 10 buildings, some of which follow with the name of the volunteer or potential volunteer:
  - Center Meeting House – Bill
  - Rail Road Station – Dennis
  - Vets' Hall, Town Hall and Sherman Hall – Tracy (all previously researched)
  - Grange Hall – possibly Rex Sherman – Deane will contact
  - Union Church – Dick will contact Elizabeth Ashworth and assist with the write up
  - Friendship House – Donna will speak with Clair Thomas and Doris Newell and will assist

Deane will also contact Shelly Candidus and perhaps Violette Jones.

The deadline for this project is August.

- Any one who gets an oral history on tape should give it to Bill to be transcribed

**New Business:**

- Deane reported that Rosco Hastings of Rochester, NY sent a CD with considerable information on the descendants of Jonas Hastings, Benjamin Cilley and James Emerson. Bill will print hard copy and both will be stored in Sherman Hall.
- Bill continues a project Tracy started of researching and printing Newbury news from local papers.
- Book C needs to be restored and preserved. The New England Document Conservation Center, at Bill's request, has estimated the cost to be \$9,960 due to the large number of tears that must be repaired. The State Library may have some grant options for us but they require that we have the contents on microfilm first, thereby assuring wider access to the material once it has been preserved. The microfilm copy on file at the State Library was made from a transcribed copy rather than the original and is therefore not acceptable. Bill will seek estimates for this work and suggested that we could use the remaining funds in the Conservation Account.
- The State Legislature has set aside funds for the preservation of vital records and has contacted Town Clerks about the program. To be eligible the materials must undergo a preservation assessment, but the State will pay for that. All records prior to 1900 are stored in the vault in Sherman Hall but all the rest are in the Town Office Building without the protection of a vault.
- The report of the conservation assessment of Sherman Hall and the contents is available to anyone interested.
- The Newbury Historical Society owns two photos by James B. Warren, well known photographer of the 1890's, and Bill questioned if we should attempt to gain others. Warren lived in Franklin but summered at Blodgett's. The Franklin Historical Society has no information on Warren but does have an interesting mission statement which we might like to consider further.
- Dick Matte was elected to the Board to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Joe Cronin.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted, B. Steward

**Board of Directors and elected terms:**

**July 2006 – 2009**

Deane Geddes  
Margie Weiler  
Bill Weiler

**July 2005 - 2008**

John Grocott  
Dennis Pavlicek  
Barbara Steward

**July 2004 - 2007**

Alice Lynn  
Dick Matte  
Bob Morris