

New Salem Historical Commission

Minutes of Meeting

September 20, 2022

Call to order: 7:00 PM

Present: Brian Casey, Randy Gordon, Kay Leonard, Mike Dupont, and Polly Johnston

1. Brian opened the meeting by declaring this to be the annual meeting and welcoming all the members. He suggested that the members nominate and vote on commission officers. The following members were nominated, seconded, and voted upon:
Brian Casey - Chair
Polly Johnston - Secretary
Mike Dupont - Treasurer
2. Discussion followed on funding sources available to the Historical Commission. The following accounts are listed in town records:
#815 Eleanor E. Schmidt Fund
#816 Old Academy Endowment
#817 Grais Burrage Fund
#818 Martha Wood Fish Fund
 - a. Randy noted that he had turned in a check for \$1,300.00 to Brian.
 - b. Discussion followed on the need to locate and document all funds recently spent and taken in. Accurate accounting of available funds is critical to the future goals of the commission.
 - c. Polly suggested that we come back to the discussion of funds at our next meeting, as well as identifying which town official would be most knowledgeable regarding funds.
 - d. Brian will contact Gabe Voelker to find out the town's requirements for depositing and/or requesting funds.
3. Brian informed the members about a tour he had taken of the Old Academy Building with Roy Brown from Roy S. Brown Architects. Brian indicated that a report on the structural needs of the building would be forthcoming from the company. The report will guide town committees in coordinating efforts and funding to remediate OAB problems such as mold.

4. Discussion on future Historical Commission goals.
 - a. Randy suggested that the stone wall across from the Stowell Building needs repair. Could the commission look into finding a stone mason?
 - b. Kay suggested the need for re-establishing the “Plaque Program” to identify the year historical buildings were built.
 - c. Kay also shared an idea for a possible commission project. She had attended a tour of different old buildings in a local town entitled: Hilltown History Trail and thought that a similar tour of New Salem buildings could be a worthy project.
 - d. The members discussed the overarching goal for this coming year is to organize and prioritize the commission's projects. Included in that goal was building consistent communication with various town boards such as the Swift River Museum, New Salem Library, and the Old Academy Trustees.

Next Meeting: Oct 25, 2022 @ 7:00 PM

Adjourned: 9:25 PM