

Wilmington Historical Society

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday, January 5, 2022

Online Meeting via Zoom

Attendees

Karen Peters
Susan Albert
Merri Peck
Linda Joss-Dyke
Gil Dyke
Laurie George
Nancy Cressey

Karen Peters called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Susan Albert offered corrections to the November minutes. The date of the Treasurer's report should be changed to October 31st and the CD balance of \$6,504.45 at Mountain Valley Federal Credit Union should be reflected as part of the report. She moved to accept the minutes as corrected and her motion was seconded by Gil Dyke. It carried unanimously.

Susan then presented the treasurer's report. Our bank balances as of December 31,2021 are as follows:

Operating Account	\$7,022.89
Building Fund Transfer Account	128.00
Zachay Memorial Account	2,000.00
Keegan Memorial Building Construction Fund	149,960.37
Mountain Valley FCU Savings Account	100.03
Adirondack Foundation Account	54,745.54
Mountain Valley Federal Credit Union CD	6,512.65
Total of all accounts	217,554.20

The Operating Account decreased by \$870 during November and December. Receipts were mainly from our \$500 grant from the town of Wilmington, membership dues and PayPal Building Fund donations to be transferred to the building fund account. Disbursements of \$2,265 were primarily for printing and mailing of Annual Appeal letters, transfer of PayPal donations to building fund, additional website work by SmartSite Design and purchase of a Quickbooks training program. Gil moved to accept the Treasurer's report and his motion was seconded by Laurie George. All voted in favor.

Susan also mentioned that SmartSite Design reported to us that there was an attempted hacking of our website by the Russian Federation. The attempt was unsuccessful. Susan will be setting up an appointment with H&R Block for completion of our IRS Form 990, As a result of a suggestion by Merri Peck, Susan developed a chart to keep track of training for 2020 and 2021. She requested that we report any additional training to her.

We then discussed the budget. Susan has done preliminary work on preparation of the 2022 budget. We need to look at 2021 and determine what will be different. The Whiskey Run and our programs are two big areas. Karen suggested we add \$800 to what was budgeted in 2019. She mentioned that our honorarium for speakers has been set at \$50 for many years and questioned whether we should raise it. We decided to keep it at \$50 for now and possibly offer more if a particular speaker is outstanding. Karen also suggested we increase our annual contribution to the Jay Community News from \$50 to \$100 since we use that publication so frequently.

At the request of Patrick McIntyre, who is now deceased, the WHS had previously voted to start a cemetery fund to maintain and repair headstones. Roy Holzer suggested that we use our \$500 grant from

the town to start that fund. The \$1,000 amount that the town contributes to cemetery maintenance is used entirely for mowing and road maintenance, and nothing is left over for headstone repairs. The town cemetery committee has been disbanded.

Karen reported that Past Perfect, our collections software, is now on the cloud. She sent the information to Merri Peck, who felt that this may be useful for us. If we do upgrade to the cloud based version of the software it may impact the budget. Susan will have the preliminary budget prepared for the February meeting.

Karen reported on communications. We received a thank you from the Jay Community News for our donation. She sent a sympathy card to Maggie Pope of the Mountain Valley Federal Credit Union, whose husband passed away. She sent two sympathy cards for the passing of Patrick McIntyre to Laurel and Steve Riehs and to Marc and Pat DuBois. She sent a thank you note to Steve Scalise, the new manager of the Alpine Country Inn, for his offer to do mowing and plowing on our property. A Happy Birthday greeting was sent to member Sidney Maxwell who turned 100 years old. We received a thank you from the Essex County Arts Council for our donation. We sent a thank you to Dennis Keegan for his matching donation to the building fund. In response to the "Our gift to you" emails that Karen shared with our members, we received a thank you from Priscilla Partridge and another from Harold Hinds who liked our improved website. Another email from Mark Urban liked Karen's email about the ski boots and offered a correction on where the boots were first used. John Yarinsky sent an inquiry about the 2022 Whiskey Run, and thank you letters were sent to Kathryn Reiss of High Falls Gorge and Harold Hinds for their generous donations. Karen and Merri met with Roy Holzer to write up an official resolution for the town's 200th anniversary to be sent to Essex County, the state and various officials. Jan Ward sent an email to thank the WHS for the work we are doing,

Discussion of Acquisitions and Research was tabled.

Due to COVID it is too early to schedule regular meetings for research. We can meet via Zoom or possibly by appointment.

Discussion topics will begin at the March meeting or whenever it is deemed safe to meet in person. Topics will be those originally chosen for 2020. Laurie and Merri will meet with Karen to come up with program topics which will tie in with the bicentennial celebration.

The Festival of Colors will be Saturday September 10th. Karen will not be available on that day so we need volunteers to be responsible for set up and take down of the WHS booth.

The Whiskey Run will be Saturday June 18th.

Three changes to our meeting schedule are as follows: February 2nd is changed to February 9th, June 1st meeting is changed to June 8th and August 3rd meeting is changed to August 10th.

Karen and Bob Peters and Judy Lawrence are on the committee to meet with the town on the 200th anniversary celebration.

The Membership and Nominations Committee will meet in March to prepare the new membership flyer for 2022.

Karen has done the permission letters for the roads and completed the maps for the Whiskey Run. Linda will send emails for permission for our water stations. We will again purchase shirts from Loreman's. The possibility of putting the logo for the town bicentennial on the back of the shirts was discussed. Presently we have a commitment from one food truck, but we have not heard back from the second one yet. The name Heritage Festival has been changed to Whiskey Run Festival to eliminate confusion. Five vendors have rolled over from 2021. Vendors and distillers will be contacted and necessary permissions obtained. We need new ideas for entertainment.

We discussed the offer from Cadence Lodge to donate desks. We would have to determine where to store them until they could be sold. We discussed several options including a consignment website, the Bridge Street Auction in Plattsburgh and another auction in Potsdam, Merri suggested we might raffle off one desk at the Festival of Colors. Laurie volunteered to investigate the various options to see what might be feasible.

Discussion of plans for 2022 and long term plans was tabled.

Karen asked us to look through the documentary heritage webinars to see if any would be of interest to us. She also advised everyone that we need to submit our volunteer hours for 2021 to her. Gil moved to adjourn the meeting and his motion was seconded by Laurie. All voted in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Cressey
Secretary