

The Falmouth Historical Society
Board Meeting
April 4, 2017
Falmouth Memorial Library Russell Room

Members present: Betsy Jo Whitcomb, President/Secretary; Ann Gagnon, V President; David Farnham, Treasurer; and Directors Ron Scorsone and Erin Cadigan.

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM.

Dave gave a Treasurer's report and passed out copies to everyone present. He said it is costing about \$20,000/year to run the Society and about \$16,000 of that is to run the museum. He also passed out a membership report for Sue who was ill.

There was a lot of discussion about how to overcome this shortfall of both cash flow and membership with suggestions of concentrating on pursuing the 118 members who are overdue with their dues and 63 who are lapsed along with how to entice new members. Erin will work on a new brochure/letter to the membership and will think about some benefits of membership that we might be able to offer. This will be worked on at the next meeting or in emails prior to that. Some thought on the cash flow problem solutions was to raise dues, charge more for research, and close the museum in the winter to save on expenses. It was also suggested we work on getting grants that might cover things we need and maintenance projects we need to have done.

Rich emailed me before the meeting to have us check out the website <http://www.wenhammuseum.org/pop/>. He writes: "This is a link to the webpage for the Wenham Museum and their speaker series. Granted there is a great deal of work that has gone into making these speaker series a reality, but I have been to 2 of them and they are immensely powerful and a great way to bring in money and recognition to their museum. I see no reason why it wouldn't work for us as well (as long as people were able to do the legwork involved). I would love to be a part of trying to make something like this happen in Falmouth." We had quite a long discussion about why some communities/organizations do well and others do not. Some of the points made were we do not have the amount of members

needed to do this and don't have the financial resources to pay for good speakers; we are too close to Portland and their financial resources; our community is made up of young families and older families and not enough "inbetweeners"; and we are a short-term-stay community without a real sense of "community". We will keep working on ways to overcome these obstacles.

Jeanne also was not feeling well but sent an email which reads: "Database project: I had an idea to write up a proposal for rising seniors to enter our data as a senior project. I thought about talking to Holly McEwen at the high school about it. We are close to the end of the school year and I's pretty sure Hannah must be swamped. Maybe it would be cool to have a member of the class of 2018 do some work on it." We did discuss this and agree it is getting close to the end of the school year and perhaps this would be something that someone would like to take on during the summer for credit. It was also suggested that this was an ideal project for a Senior Girl Scout working on her Gold ____ (equivalent of the Eagle Scout award). Dave said the Girl Scout Council would be a place to look for this help.

There was a discussion about the museum and it's needs. We discussed the door needing replacing and it was decided that we need a more solid door than is there currently and one with windows to let in light and allow us to see who is there. Ron will check into this. The driveway and the mud pit we call a back yard was discussed. Betsy will check and see what can be done.** There was a discussion about the upcoming work day, May 7th and whether it should include both inside and outside work. Erin is putting a poster together and it will also go on our website.

Erin talked about an agreement for us to partner with the Tercentennial committee and the Board agreed this was a good thing to do. She will write up the contract for us to sign.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 2, 2017 at 6:30 PM at the MUSEUM.

**Betsy talked with Fred Chase today and he will take a look at the driveway and get back to me. In talking he suggested the cheapest/best way to go is with recycled road material. I reminded him of our lack of finances and he will see what he can do. His son is in this business and makes his own materials so it is much cheaper and perhaps he will give us a good deal. He will get back to me next week.

Respectfully submitted.

Betsy Jo Whitcomb