

# The Falmouth Historical Society Minutes

Falmouth Heritage Museum—January 7, 2020

The meeting came to order at 6:32 p.m. Present were Betsy Whitcomb, Ron Scorsone, Rich Meserve, Carol Kauffman, David Farnham, and Sue Farnham.

## **Secretary's Report**

Minutes. The minutes for the November meeting were reviewed and approved.

Membership. There are 110 active members and 14 lapsed.

Online Activity. The Museum may be closed but we continue to receive a steady flow of inquiries from the community via telephone and email. During October, November and December, we conducted research and responded to thirteen requests (five local history, five family history, and three property history. There were more than a thousand visits to our website during the same period. Activity on social media was light.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Finances. The Society has a balance of \$5,127 in its cash accounts and \$19,951 with the Foundation. Our tax-exempt status has been restored by the IRS as was our license as a charitable organization by the state. This allowed us to withdraw \$5,000 from the Foundation to replenish our operating accounts so that we can continue paying the bills. Utilities are running a bit higher than we anticipated with the building shut down.

Administration. Our financial records are online and accessible to Board members on Google Suite using their FHS accounts.

## **Old Business**

Maintenance. The sump pump continues to have problems. There is a pipe bringing water into the sump pump well from outside the building. It is not understood why the pipe is there or what its function originally was.

Ron has turned off the heating system and set the old electrical thermostats down to their lowest setting (35 degrees). The heat pump is off at the outside switch.

Sue will ask the Agricultural Extension's Master Gardener program for a volunteer to maintain the garden this year.

Collections. Ron will get started on the catalog shortly. (He's been busy dealing with facilities issues.)

Sadly, the buildings at Tidewater Farm will be demolished, probably this spring. We will be invited to salvage materials for preservation and potential re-use. We need to have a team organized and standing by to identify and transport the materials to the barn.

Merchandise. The cookbook committee will meet Friday at Betsy's house. David will look at what it would take to set up an online store and report back at next month's meeting.

Activities. David has not finished going through the materials from the last SOLVE meeting.

David gave a lecture at Falmouth by the Sea on October 25<sup>th</sup>. It was the first of three Bicentennial-themed presentations he is preparing.

Betsy will follow up on having an expert on historical buildings give a talk on recognizing styles and construction of period homes. We can also check with Maine Preservation. Based on queries from the community, this would be of special interest to realtors. It could also be a good fundraising activity.

Maine Audubon has invited us to partner with them for their Peony Festival this year. We can collect donations and act as docents. They gave Betsy a book about Gilsland Farm to read.

## **New Business**

Goals and Objectives. Three years ago, the Board established goals which have guided us. Of the fifteen objectives, we completed twelve (exceeding our goals for three), achieved progress on two, and left only one undone.

David, as president of the Society, proposed new goals and objectives (as has been customary following the annual meeting). The presentation and discussion consumed much of the meeting. David will revise the draft, incorporating comments and suggestions received from the Board, and bring the proposed goals and objectives back to the Board for a decision at the February meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Farnham  
Secretary