

Groton Historical Society

Meeting Tuesday, April 12, 2022, 3:00 p.m.

Peter Paul House

Present: President Deborah Jurist; Vice President Brent Smith, Secretary Phyllis Burke, Allen Goodine, Cheryl LaTourneau, Rebecca (Becky) Rectenwald, Sarah Spira, Terrence Curran, and Mike Gaiss. Treasurer Susan Pelkey Smith was not present.

1. Deborah called the meeting to order at 3:05, and distributed the minutes of the meeting of Nov. 9, 2021. Brent made a motion, seconded by Deborah, to approve the minutes. All approved.
2. Deborah distributed the Treasurer's Report for 1/1/22 – 3/31/22; Treasurer's report of the net revenue from the sale of puzzles, prints and maps for 1/1/22 – 3/31/22; and a fundraising summary that includes memorial contributions and donations for the painting project for 1/1/19 – 3/31/22. She noted that \$5000.00 was transferred to our CD. Our combined cash balance, including the CD, is \$20,046.88. We are doing well! For the next meeting, Deborah asked us to think about what needs to be done on the Peter Paul House. Mike made a motion, seconded by Deborah, to accept the treasurer's reports. All approved.
3. **Officers for 2022.** Deborah, Brent, and Susan have all agreed to carry on as president, vice-president, and treasurer. Phyllis would appreciate some help with the secretary's job, which has previously been divided between a recording secretary and corresponding secretary. Any ideas? We will vote on officers at the meeting of May 24th.
4. **GHS Website.** Sarah has completed most of the website tasks listed in the 11/9/21 minutes, except adding pictures of the clothing, information about the GHS-published books, and the genealogy database. An SSL Certificate has been purchased for a two year period. She has added Google Analytics to the site. She also offered to make an index for the photos.

Deborah asked us all to check the website to see if we're happy with the layout. Sarah asked us to consider the "Historical Resources" category – she may recommend breaking it up into separate topics. Allen asked about an index for the newsletter articles, which Willard has already provided, although it needs updating.

Security for website: For \$120 a year Terry Miller, who manages the Peacham Historical Society website, will keep the plugins updated and the patches that come from Word Fence as well. She will upload the newsletters and keep the newsletter structure in place. Allen made a motion, seconded by Rebecca, to pay Terry Miller \$120 a year to perform these services. All approved.

5. **Historic Houses, focus for 2022 season.** A long discussion ensued, continuing discussion from the meeting of 11/9/2021. Deborah reported that Debbie Lyford is a title searcher who we might ask to come to a meeting or a program on property history. Mike suggested having the program recorded, perhaps by Kingdom Access. Sarah would like to revisit the walking tour. She will set up a House and Property History heading on the website and prepare a dummy template for historic information. She will also make a list of books at the Groton Library that could help with house research.

NEW BUSINESS

6. **GHS media on tape.** Deborah found a VHS tape from 1992, with Alice Goodine talking about the history of Groton Pond History. A discussion followed of what GHS has on tape that needs to be digitalized. Allen will do an inventory. Terrence will explore how this resource can be digitalized.
7. **GHS newsletter.** Discussed how we can move forward with the newsletter. Can we help Willard come up with topics? Use topics from old newsletters, as in a “The Best of” series? Mike suggested we need to ask Willard what he’s able and willing to do going forward. Allen will email him.

Deborah suggested we need a separate meeting for just the newsletter, and also one for house history.

8. **Access to Peter Paul House for members.** Deborah acknowledged the need for members to explore the house to familiarize themselves with what’s there. Rebecca and Cheryl would like to do that. Deborah suggested members email her to request a key, and we all agreed that’s OK. She gave Rebecca and Cheryl a key at the meeting. Rebecca offered to make a log to record who has visited the house, and list their area of interest.

9. **Recording elders.** Mike and Becky brought up the importance of recording our elders' memories. Perhaps BMU students could do for extra credit or as community service? Sarah suggested working through the BMU library.
10. **Donation.** The family of the late Betty Bouley Webster has donated her early 20th century telephone, which consists of a wall unit and a separate handset. All approved accepting the donation.
11. **The next meeting** will be May 24th at 6:00 p.m. at the Peter Paul House.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Phyllis Burke