

Groton Historical Society  
Business meeting at Mountain Meadow Pottery  
Tuesday, February 25, 2020, 5:00 p.m.

Present: Deborah Jurist, President; Susan Pelkey Smith, Treasurer; Lise Shallberg, Correspondence Secretary; Phyllis Burke, Recording Secretary; Dwaine Smith, Michael Gaiss

- 1) Deborah opened the meeting at 5:10 by introducing new member Mike Gaiss, who has offered to help us with our website. Welcome, and thank you, Mike!
- 2) Minutes of the meeting of January 15. Susan asked that the most recent version be e-mailed again. A motion was made by Deborah, seconded by Lise, to approve the minutes. All approved, and approved to put the minutes on Google Docs.

It was suggested that Dave Spencer of the Lake Association link our new website with the Lake Association website.

- 3) Treasurer's Report (attached). Susan distributed and explained her report dated 2/22/2020. Since she was elected as new treasurer at our meeting of October 8 2019, the signers on Wells River Savings Bank CD #811042 need to be changed. We voted to approve removing Erik Volk as signer and adding Susan Pelkey Smith, so that Susan and Deborah Jurist are the signers on CD 811042.

Deborah thinks we could use \$1400 to \$2400 from our budget for the painting project. Susan had brought with her a W-9 for Matt Nunn. We will also need a dated and signed contract for the job, and a certificate of insurance.

Deborah moved to approve the treasurer's report, seconded by Lise. All approved.

- 4) Newmont Military Band? All who had listened to the video of the band agreed that it would not be appropriate for Groton. Deborah shared another entertainment possibility: Zachary Conaway told her about a man who does re-enactments of historic events.
- 5) Ethan Frome movie of 1992, possible focus for 2021. Perhaps we could work with Peacham, and the Groton library. This year, we'll familiarize ourselves with the book and the making of the movie.
- 6) Lake Groton. All agreed this will be our focus for 2020, and brainstormed ideas.

Smiths: This year is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lake Association. Deborah: ask them if we can help them celebrate. Maybe the PPH can be open a couple of times.

Phyllis: Exhibit with our 120-year old bathing costumes donated by the Clarks, with history of the old camp where they were found.

Deborah: Janet Puffer's story about taking the train to swim at the lake.

Mike: Logging?

Display of photos of old camps? (Old Groton families who have had camps for years)

Lots of history at the Nature Center.

Lise's map of Lake properties: Promote maps at the Lake Assoc. meeting? Lise: cost per map is under \$20.00. Suggested price: \$50.00, to benefit GHS (If not a member, free membership for a year)

Deborah: Maybe we could help promote better access to the park by Groton residents. Help promote Kettle Pond campsites. Mike: promote swimming lessons for Groton kids.

Mike: Stories about old cottages (start with Clarks). Indian lore? What about the proposed canal? Find historic spots – railroad, old camps.

Deborah: Boat rides around the lake? Mike: Tours of lake for village folks? Dwaine: On 4<sup>th</sup> of July village folks visit lake for fireworks and boat parade.

7) Fundraising for painting and repair project.

Lise: she has checked many sources of grants. Most are restoration grants, not for repairs. Deborah suggested she contact Tim Ashe. Mike suggested checking with other historical societies to see if they've gotten grants.

Discussion of Phyllis's draft of letter. Corrections made. Discussion of to whom to send. Susan suggested trying to encourage membership, too.

Deborah: Do fundraising through Facebook as gifts for birthdays and anniversaries?

Mike: What about Venmo for payment (an app for payment).

Deborah asked Phyllis to visit Janet for ideas about people who might donate.

Deborah will make some personal calls

8) Consideration of changes to GHS bylaws

Susan: We need to discuss how we want to structure the organization. Deborah: As flexible and small as possible.

Lise: Do what we need to do to maintain a non-profit status.

Susan: Have board of directors, or membership-driven? She suggests a range.

Dwaine: What are the repercussions of not doing things to maintaining a non-profit status?

Deborah: We should look for by-law suggestions. Susan: she got samples from other VT historical societies. Hinesburg looks good.

To be considered at next meeting.

9) Other business.

Phyllis expressed concern about the wasps at the PPH. They have been coming in the downstairs windows, but she and Lise noticed new mud wasp nests upstairs, over the windows and in the hall. Lise offered to contact the pest control person who takes care of their house to see if he will make an estimate.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 24, at 3:00, to be held at the Mountain Meadows Pottery.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Phyllis Burke, Recording Secretary

