

Groton Historical Society
Meeting Tuesday, July 13, 2021, 4:00 p.m.
Peter Paul House

Present: President Deborah Jurist, Vice-President Brent Smith, Treasurer Susan Pelkey Smith, Corresponding Secretary Lise Shallberg, Recording Secretary Phyllis Burke, Allen Goodine, Mike Gaiss, Dave Spencer

We met informally at 3:00 to tour the house in preparation for the August 28th open house.

1. Deborah called the meeting to order at 4:00. She reviewed the minutes of the June 1st meeting, which had been distributed via email. Deborah moved and Susan seconded a motion to accept the minutes. All approved.
2. Treasurer's Report Susan distributed her treasurer's report for the year 2021 through July 12th (copy attached). Total income to date for 2021: \$8436.26; total expenses: \$592.60. Outstanding expenses are the house painting job, property insurance, and VHS dues. Balance in checking account is \$14,535.38. Once again, Susan provided separate reports for puzzle sales, fundraising, and memorial donations. Brent reported that the fire department's coin drop proceeds in memory of Deane and Bing Page were split between the GHS and the Methodist Church. Thank you, fire department!
During discussion of finances, Deborah asked Mike if he could explore getting a grant to install a kitchen sink and hot water in the PPH.
The treasurer's report was accepted as presented.
3. PPH cleaning – report from Lise. She spoke to Carrie Graves, who cleans the library and town offices with her husband. They would dust and vacuum and clean the windows inside and out. Deborah made a motion to hire them for \$300 or less, seconded by Brent. All approved. The Graveses will supply cleaning supplies, and will clean in August before the open house.
4. Puzzles, map and Pond booklet Lise reported 48 new puzzles will be ready by next week. She will pick up on the 23rd or 24th. She is waiting for Copies and More to print a sample map, and will check on Thursday. No idea of the cost yet.

We briefly discussed the idea of having frameable prints made of Peter Kimball's Lake Groton photo. Brent noted they should be a common frame size. No decision was made.

Deborah has made the final revisions to "Camping on the Pond" and has emailed the file to Copies and More. Mike suggested uploading the file to Google Drive, which he can access. He will help.

5. Clothing collection In June Phyllis attended three Care of Textiles workshops (two on Zoom and one in person) offered by the Vermont Historical Society. Of the many excellent recommendations made, several will be important and practical steps to preserving our large collection of antique clothing and textiles. To start with, she asked

permission to use the closet off the back parlor for extra clothing storage. All approved, and Brent suggested providing some funds for supplies. Phyllis also described the steps suggested by the VHS Collections Manager, Teresa Greene, to best save the hat that goes with the Civil War dress parade uniform. One is to remove an ancient newspaper folded inside the band of the hat – should we do it? We decided to do that when Teresa visits, which she expressed an interest in doing, perhaps in the spring.

6. House painting and maintenance Brent has had no contact with Matt Nunn, but will try again. We are expecting Matt to finish painting the exterior of the Peter Paul House this summer.

Dave noted that the trees on the west side of the house need to be trimmed. Brent will help with that. Brent also brought to our attention that there is quite a bit of old stuff in the attic and basement that we should make a decision about. For example, there are three old car windshields in the attic. Allan offered to help with identifying them and other old stuff. Lise suggested Darlings' old car show in August for selling the windshields. Deborah suggested looking at the things inside the house to decide what to display and keep. Also, the signs and labels in the house need updating.

7. Discussion of August and September events Our community-wide Lake Groton-themed open house will be Saturday, August 28th, from 10:00 to 2:00 at the Peter Paul House. We discussed who will be available to work that day, how to set up the space in the house, exhibits and displays, and advertising and how to reach out. Many excellent ideas were tossed around, and in the end it was suggested:

Have someone in each room. Provide a quick history of house, and maybe timed talks?

Use garage for Lake Groton focus, with rotating projected pictures (Dave and Brent), on-going discussion, a special exhibit on the Lake, including timeline, overview, and photos (Dave).

House: Table in kitchen for sale of our books, puzzles, the map, and "Camping on the Pond."

Front parlor for display of bathing suits and bathing suit posters (Deborah and Phyllis)

Advertising ideas: Deborah will write a description of the event and run it by us before it's distributed to: John Desilets to email to Lake Groton owners, Ricker Pond owners, GHS members, new property owners in Groton, Lake Groton Association. Dave will print and put up posters at the Forest Store and campgrounds. Lise will put up the sandwich board sign at the PPH.

Brent announced that the Fire Department will do a chicken barbeque on the 28th at noon.

8. Other business

Allan asked about a membership list. What about expired memberships? Deb: We have a Google doc, but nothing on paper. She will print and bring to next meeting so we can discuss.

Several noted the GHS email account is not being monitored. Discussion of Google docs.

Discussion GHS website. Info is outdated, needs to be cleaned up, and maintainable. The software, WordPress, is difficult. Allan: need a committee to work on website. Dave and Mike agreed and will help. Deb: website is repository for basic info. Facebook is used for current events. Could Vermont Historical Society help? Dave will check, and will make a list of problems.

We will meet two more times before the 28th: Tuesday, August 3 at 4:00 at the PPH, and Thursday, August 26th at 4:00 at the PPH.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Phyllis Burke, Recording Secretary