

Groton Historical Society
Meeting May 11, 2021, 6:00 p.m.
Socially distanced at Mountain Meadows Pottery, So. Ryegate

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

Many thanks to Allen, who brought wonderful old photos of Lake Groton from his parents' collection to share with us. Also to Lise, who brought her carefully compiled large-format map of the properties around Lake Groton.

Deborah opened the meeting at 6:10.

1. Minutes of the meeting of October 27, 2020 (distributed by email for prior consideration). Deborah moved and Lise seconded a motion to accept the minutes. All approved.
2. Treasurer's Report. Susan distributed copies of her treasurer's report for January through April 30, 2021 (copy attached). Total income to date for 2021: \$7175.02; total expenses: \$165.12. Income includes donations: general, for painting and improvements, and memorial; plus net puzzle sales. Susan provided separate detailed reports to cover puzzle sales and fundraising income. Fundraising has produced funds in excess of the amount needed to finish the painting job. Deborah recommended opening a CD; Susan noted that with construction cost increases, the extra money may be needed for repairs. Deborah moved and Brent seconded a motion to accept the treasurer's report. All approved. Thank you, Susan, for your detailed reports
3. Update on painting project. Brent spoke to Matt Nunn, who has a contract for painting the house. He completed the north and east sides last summer, and will do the south and west sides this year. Matt said he will do it, but can't give us a firm date yet.
4. Cleaning of Peter Paul House. We are thinking of hiring someone to clean the house this year, since the house has been closed since 2019. Deborah suggested getting it done by August 1st. We will address at the next meeting.
5. Plans for the celebration of Lake Groton. The GHS would like to take advantage of this summer's 75th anniversary of the Lake Groton Association to help bring the town and lake residents together by educating both communities about the history of the lake. We discussed how, where, and when to do that.

Deborah has been in touch with Rusty Reader, president of the Lake Groton Association. Their annual meeting is always Labor Day weekend, after which many folks leave their camps. Can the GHS have a presence there? A presentation about GHS? A booth to sell maps, books, the revised Camping on Groton Pond booklet and puzzles? Boat trips? Allen and Susan urged Deborah to consult Rusty and the association board about all these ideas.

All agreed that it would be good to have a lake-focus exhibit at the PPH, to which Lake folks could be invited. Brent suggested including Ricker Pond folks, even though they are not part of the Lake Groton Association. Suggested dates for an open house and exhibit are Saturday, August 28th, and Sunday, September 5th. Exhibit to include the 2 old “bathing costumes” from the lake, and displays of the many wonderful photos loaned by lake families.

6. Lise distributed the photo that will go on the new puzzle. It’s a beautiful aerial photo of Lake Groton by Peter Kimball, whose permission we have to use it.

We all looked at Lise’s large-format map that she compiled from the town tax maps, showing the properties around the Lake. It would be great to have it available for sale to lake property owners. The maps will be printed at Copies and More. There ensued a long discussion of the map, the names on the map, the numbers on the map, and the camp numbers. In the end it was decided that the names on the legend should match the names on the tax map.*

(Allen left the meeting at 7:30.)

7. Donation privacy policy
Deborah’s draft of a policy to ensure privacy for folks who make donations to the GHS had been included with her emailed agenda. See attached sheet.
After a brief discussion, Deborah made a motion to accept the policy, seconded by Susan. All approved.
8. GHS Contact person for Vermont Historical Society website
Phyllis noted that the person listed as GHS contact on the State HS website is no longer a member. Deborah offered to be the contact. Phyllis will contact the VHS to make the change.
9. The VHS will hold a workshop on textile preservation for local museums and historical societies. Sessions will be in June, two by Zoom, and one in person at the history center in Barre. Phyllis will attend, and will share what she learns with all interested.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 1st at 4:00 at the Peter Paul House. Deborah will have talked with Rusty Reader re: our part in the Lake Groton Association meeting so that we can plan for that, and for our open houses and exhibits.

At 8:00 Deborah moved, and Susan seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. All approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis Burke
Recording Secretary

* As a follow-up to the map discussion, Deborah spoke with Groton assistant tax assessor Dorothy Knott about how names are shown on the town tax map. Although the names are up-to-date, there are so many inconsistencies in how people list ownership, that she and Lise agreed

that the map legend should not include names. It will show lot number and 911 address, with space on the legend for people to write in names if they want to. Members who attended the meeting voted by email, and agreed.