

Groton Historical Society  
Meeting September 8, 2020

Socially distancing in the sunny and quiet back yard of the Peter Paul House, 4:00 p.m.

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

Deborah distributed copies of the minutes of the June 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, the treasurer's report as of 8/31/2020, her draft of an insert for the newsletter, and the agenda for this meeting.

1. Minutes of the meeting of June 9, 2020. Allen moved to accept the minutes, Lise seconded. All approved.
2. Treasurer's report. Susan described the format of her excellent and detailed treasurer's report dated 8/31/2020. Total income to date for 2020: \$4600.39; total expenses: \$6174.72; checking acct. balance as of 8/31/2020: \$4392.06. The bill for mowing has not yet been received, and the insurance bill is due 9/23. We still have Quickbooks because it may be used to bill for membership. Page 2 of the report details income and expenses for puzzle sales. Net revenue from puzzles as of 8/31 is \$1802.45. Phyllis moved and Allen seconded a motion to approve the treasurer's report. All approved.
3. New puzzle. Lise reported that Nicole Wolfgang's original artwork is ready to go to Kent, the man in Waterbury who manufactures the puzzles. She and Mark will deliver it to him tomorrow. They will talk to him about the turn-around time. Questions to consider: How many to order? How to sell? Include shipping cost in price of puzzle? Have open house this fall to sell puzzles and books?  
Alan: Do we have ways to contact folks who bought the first puzzle? Lise: We have email & physical addresses.  
Deborah: Let's buy 200 puzzles. We need to order more books, too. Lise: Puzzle set-up fee is \$26.00. Must order in multiples of 12. Kent has already dropped his price to \$9.00 each. A shipping fee of \$6.00 would cover postage. Discussion followed about how many to order, whether or not to ship all or some, whether to include shipping fee with price. In the end, all agreed that if there is a price break for larger orders, we order 200. If not, go with 108.  
Deborah: She will make a form for Lise to use to record each sale and then give to Susan with the payment.  
Allen: Sell the shipping fee on COVID and on winter driving conditions. Agreed to ship instead of deliver, no matter where.  
Susan on the spring (first) puzzles: Wait until we run out before reprinting more.
4. Fall event. Should we have one? An open house or just tables outside to sell books and puzzles? We discussed the pros and cons of opening the Peter Paul House this fall, uncertainty about the weather, the risk from COVID, and decided not to have a fall event.
5. Book and puzzle promotion and sales. Deborah has been working on the project to reprint Marion Lindsay Proudfoot's **Camping at the Pond**. It is now in Word, ready to

be checked. Allen and Phyllis took copies to proofread. Allen suggested someday doing an addendum, with contributions from people who were at the lake in the '50s and '60s.

Allen wishes there were a way to sell more of Seth Eastman's book. Find contacts for folks with Civil War interest? What about a better description of the books on our website? Deborah will talk to Mike Gaiss about that.

We considered Deborah's draft of the newsletter insert, which provides a draft form for ordering the books and the new puzzle, and pricing for members. Discussion of changes to insert: Susan suggested having the same pricing for everyone, member or not. Advertising and selling? Deborah will put the information on our Facebook page and a link on "Square." She will re-write the insert, distribute via email for our response, and will do the mailing this week. Tonya and Susan can help.

6. Painting & repair of Peter Paul House and maintenance of collections. We need another \$6000 for painting the south and west sides of the house next summer. Everyone agreed that Matt Nunn did a great job with the north and east sides, and with replacing the kitchen door.

Lise has been cleaning the house, has organized the "office", and especially the contents of the filing cabinet. Great job, Lise! Allen has offered to go through the boxes in the office to check unidentified photos and for duplication of documents.

Thanks to Brent for installing an outside faucet on the west wall, for ease of watering plants.

Phyllis is working on the clothing, and has donated a stand for displaying the quilts. Susan asked who has keys to the house: Deborah, Brent, Lise, and Phyllis.

7. Other business. Brent shared that Channel 22 featured 3 clips about Groton history presented by the Vermont Historical Society. He sent links to a few of us, and they were very good. Maybe we could use them next year for our Lake focus.

Susan announced that the Lake Groton Association is planning for their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration next year.

Brent reported that there is stuff in the basement of the PPH that maybe could be disposed of, or that someone might want. Something to keep in mind for the future.

Deborah suggested we meet again in early October to make a marketing plan for selling the new puzzles and the books.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis Burke, Recording Secretary