

Groton Historical Society Annual Business Meeting Minutes Saturday August 24th, 2024

In attendance: 45 members of the public plus the GHS Board of Directors Deborah Jurist, Phyllis Burke, Allen Goodine, Louise Reynolds, Brent Smith, Sarah Spira.

Groton Historical Society President Deborah Jurist opened the annual meeting at 10:45am.

Board of Directors

Deborah noted that the GHS is seeking 2 new directors

Election of Officers

The following were nominated for office:

Deborah Jurist as President

Brent Smith as Vice President

Susan Pelkey Smith as Treasurer

Phyllis Burke and Sarah Spira as Co-Secretaries

Alan Goodine as Director

Louise Reynolds as Director

The nominations were seconded by Dave Pierce, the members voted and the positions were accepted.

Treasurer's report

Susan was unable to attend the meeting in person, but prepared a report for Deborah to share.

The GHS CD Balance is at 15K. 1 Year CD which is getting an interest rate of 4.5%

The organization has taken in this year so far \$1584.48, and has spent \$1808-with a difference of \$200.00.

Deborah noted that fundraising happens during the annual appeal towards the end of the year and she anticipates discrepancy will be remedied during the fundraising drive.

2024 Activities and Events

The Backyard:

The opening of the backyard. A large buckthorn tree fell in the winter of 2023. Allen, Susan, Dwaine worked to remove the fallen tree. The Groton and Ryegate Fire Department held a brush fire training with and burned the rest of the debris.

The Peter Paul House's neighbor, Mike Gibson is mowing the backyard now. Alan Eastman has been working to treat the knotweed and opened up a path to the river.

Security and Storage of Collection items

Deborah met with Tim Page for input and guidance on security. Tim provided great insight into enhancing the building's security and GHS is pursuing his recommendations including the installation of metal window guard rails to further enhance the security of the building.

One of the goals for 2024 was to create a safe room for items requiring secure storage and a climate controlled environment. A dehumidifier was installed and has effectively reduced the humidity in the safe room.

We learned that our neighbors the Viviano's keep an eye on the place and that the motion sensor lights are effective and go off for the occasional deer.

Collaborated with the library this year

We worked with the library to bring our membership presentations by Jane Beck in June, and today's upcoming presentation by Richard Balzano.

With the library, we contributed funds to purchase a new printer to continue printing our newsletter.

The Library is going to be coordinating with the Vermont State Archives and Records Administration to schedule a time to meet with the Roving Archivist to discuss our organization's historical collations: how to preserve them and make them more accessible.

Insurance Update

We learned that the insurance rates might double. Brent, Susan, and Deborah are meeting with an agent to discuss options.

Display

Phyllis Burke's exhibit on wedding dresses has been adapted into a permanent display and is now on view in the East Bedroom.

Website

Webmaster Terry Miller is working on the newsletter web indexing.

Looking ahead to the future

The GHS Directors plan to complete an additional cleaning and updating of the basement

The GHS anticipates a collection review- focusing on identifying Groton related items and deaccessioning items un-related to Groton.

Deborah noted that there seems to be an interest in Metal Detectors - and perhaps that might guide programs for 2025.

Deborah Jurist made a motion to adjourn the Business Meeting

Dave Pierce seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 11:58am.

Richard Balzano then began his presentation.