

GHS Business Meeting Minutes- Draft  
Sunday, Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at the Peter Paul House  
5pm

Present: Alan Goodine, Brent Smith, Deborah Jurist, Phyllis Burke, Sarah Spira

### **Insurance Coverage**

Deborah opened the meeting with a review of the insurance options available through Noyle Johnson- representing Union Mutual (Where our current insurance is from).

The representative changed the things that were incorrect, and sent new options to select.

The items corrected were that the PPH is:

- Not a community center
- Not five miles from fire station
- Not owner occupied

The value of the building was set as follows:

The cash value of the building at 399,000

Replacement value of the building at 530,000

Our current policy expires Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> 2024.

Deborah clarified that the current options only include the building itself.

Allen expressed concern that the contents of the building are just as valuable as the building itself, and is interested in the details of the liability coverage.

Also discussed was removing the \$5,000 in business coverage since there are very few items relating to business operations at the house.

Deborah made a motion to vote on a policy and approve the quote of:

\$530,000 replacement cost with a \$1000 deductible and get rid of the (5,000 business not enough business stuff to cover it) coverage.

Allen seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

### **Collection insurance**

Deborah – because of the July floods and storms, met with an agent from the Farm Country for her house, and the woman suggested that the GHS look into Collection Insurance and Directors Insurance, and gave Deborah the applications for coverage through Philadelphia Insurance Company Collection Insurance

Agent from Farm Country in St. J suggested that we might need a rider to cover the few things that we have of great value.

Deborah is working on this application but needs assistance filling in the gaps. The types of questions she has relate to the specifics of the building- ie- electrical, and other information regarding the update/ renovation of the house and has requested Brent and Susan help to fill it out.

### **Directors Insurance**

Deborah clarified that Directors insurance projects against harassment or other poor behavior by a director.

### **Introduction to the Appraiser**

Deborah went to Norwich yesterday for Norwich Historical Society's "Antiques Roadshow" meeting Appraiser Andrew Katz from Windham Antiques and Rachel Onuf from Secretary of State's Office Archives Dept.

She would like to start the process of finding out how much the Civil War era uniform and powder horn are worth.

Group agreed to reach out to Andrew Katz so he can review the photos of civil war era uniform, in the hopes that it is an introduction to bring the appraiser here.

This introduction would give a sense of the process and the cost.

A discussion was had about the merits of this approach and decided to support Deborah's exploration of this relationship.

The directors discussed how to approach the appraiser and the civil war era uniform. Phyllis says that the provenance describes it as being from the Vermont militia from before the civil war, and to include this information when the photos are sent.

### **Roving Archivist Outreach**

Deborah met Rachel Onuf from the Secretary of State's Office Archives Dept. at the Norwich Event. Sarah and Deborah have been discussing arranging a visit with the Roving Archivist. Rachel has informed Deborah that there has been a change in staffing, and that they are seeking to hire a new archivist.

### **Town Budget Appropriations**

Deborah suggests the GHS applies for an appropriation from the Town. Signatures of 5% of the voters in Groton will need to be collected for a petition . The amount to be discussed further. Deborah will make a petition for Fall Foliage day (somewhere in the range of \$750-\$1000- amount to be determined at a later date).

### **Purchase of Display Case**

East Barre Mall closing at the end of October.

Deborah visited, and found a wooden display case that would be perfect for the Leete Collection.

Deborah has offered to purchase and donate the case.

The directors discussed the placement of the case, and the timing of its delivery in relation to the Fall Foliage Day open house.

Those present voted to accept this donation.

### **Portraits of Rickers from Barre Antique Mall**

There are two portraits of Rickers at the BAM that are a potential donation, but it is not clear who these portraits are of.

The directors voted to accept the donation, and will research to find their identities.

### **Security**

Deborah spoke with Richard Wakefield- about bars for the south facing basement window in the hired man's room but they wouldn't look like the ones they have, they would look like the post office.

Deborah would like to explore other possibilities and will look for an option for that window that we would purchase.

Allen says make it as simple as possible. Keep the bars simple and can just be mounted to the building. Deborah wants the bars on the inside, to match the others.

Deborah wants permission for bars that will fit that window- within a reasonable price range up to \$300.

Deborah also brought up the metro shelving units she identified at Home Depot to support the development of a vault.

Brent suggested that rather than converting the hired man's room, begin to plan for a buildout of part of the basement.

The directors determined that for the short term they will approve the purchase of bars, and 1 shelving unit, and then discuss a longer term storage solution. Phyllis listed the Peacham Historical Society as an example/inspiration.

### **Donations**

Vicki Miller – Luce Bottle Cap Opener- Luce Mfg. Co.

Lois Boemig- John K. White Estate- Linens, Baby & Toddler Clothes, hunting licenses of John K. White from 1905- when he lived in topsham -groton.

Deb made a motion, Phyllis seconded it, and we accepted the Donations.

### **Locksmith/ Safe**

Brent will look into the Locksmith for the safe.

### **Sleeping Sentinel Follow up**

Deborah presented the Sleeping Sentinel Talk at the Ryegate Historical Society on Sunday Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>. People loved the talk, and Deborah brought the gun. The response was overwhelmingly positive and Deborah collected \$160 in donations. Deborah mentioned that this has potential- it's something people get excited about. Also noted was that the story of William Scott didn't stop when Waldo (Glover) published the book. Other people wrote stories too.

Allen mentioned that there was a classic comic book about William Scottt, and a movie made.

Peter Sinclair has invited Deborah to give the talk in White River Junction, which she has offered to do- and will accept a donation to the GHS.

Business meeting adjourned at 7pm