

The Falmouth Historical Society

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Zoom Meeting—December 7, 2021

The meeting came to order at 6:40 p.m. Present were Betsy Whitcomb, Carol Kauffman, David Farnham, Rich Meserve, Ron Scorsone, Sally Farneth, and Sue Farnham.

President's Remarks

David began by noting that the annual meeting was six weeks away. The proposed agenda consists of the required business meeting, a recap of our work during the past year, highlights from our treasure trove of acquisitions, and a presentation on property research for two historical sites on the Foreside.

Secretary's Report

Minutes. Not everyone had been able to review the draft minutes for the November meeting. The Board was asked to send comments to Sue or Dave.

Membership. Our active membership is 88.

Treasurer's Report

Administration. David described how our books are becoming fully compliant with applicable accounting standards and practices for a public charity and museum bookstore. Our view of the Society's financial posture is becoming more complete and more detailed, but this means a doubling of the bookkeeping workload.

Finances. The Society has a balance of \$11,265 in its operating accounts and \$15,387 with Maine Community Foundation. Our accounts payable is \$173, and sales tax payable is \$30.

Committee Reports

Programs. Nothing significant to report.

Museum Operation & Exhibits. Nothing significant to report.

Collections.

Catalog. Ron is nearly finished transcribing 2004. It will soon be time to begin photographing artifacts.

Local History. We responded to four queries from the community during the past month. One was really more related to Yarmouth and we referred the question to them.

Expansion of Falmouth-related content on the website continues with seven more links to local historical references.

Communications. Sally suggested including “fun facts” in the newsletter. She will collect some from her references.

The table at the Very Merry Falmouth came off well. It was chilly but we were sheltered from the wind. We answered some questions about Falmouth history and donation of artifacts. We also sold some merchandise.

There was a discussion of Facebook and Facebook sites.

Merchandise.

Cookbook. Editing of volumes I and II continues.

Falmouth-themed merchandise. We picked up 20 totes and 20 beanies just in time for Very Merry Falmouth. They Board approved spending \$400 but the price came in \$170 higher. We already recouped \$133 on the handful of items already sold.

Museum Buildings & Grounds. The “Closed for Winter” sign is securely mounted on the driveway.

Technology. Nothing significant to report.

Development. MAJCO Roofing is our newest corporate sponsor recognizing their generous donation of the repairs to the barn roof ridge.

Ronald Perkins, a native of Falmouth and a graduate of Falmouth High School made a substantial donation to the Society with half earmarked for a scholarship. Rich will draft criteria for awarding the scholarship.

General Topics

David discussed two proposed amendments to the Bylaws. Carol had drafted the Bylaws and provided context. It was noted during the discussion that we would not be the only Falmouth organization to suspend term limits while Covid is still rampant. While the section of the Bylaws dealing with assistant treasurers is sufficiently ambiguous to allow us to do what is necessary, some institutions are more finicky and have been known to review our bylaws and board minutes. The proposed change will assure such institutions that assistant treasurers are working within their remit. The board voted unanimously to adopt the resolutions for consideration at the annual meeting as provided in the Bylaws.

David observed that our recent experience with merchandise showed that our very capable board lacks experience in running a small business like a museum bookstore. He recommended that we recruit a board member from the local business community. Carol suggested a specific business. Rich said that he knows the owners and will reach out to them.

There being no other new business, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Suzanne Farnham, Secretary