

Starksboro Historical Society Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2010
Starksboro Town Office
7:00-8:30PM

Members present: Robert Stokes, Gerald Heffernan, Olive Phillips, Linda Barnard, Cynthia Kling, Ruth Beecher

Guest: Leslie Leggett

1. Meeting called to order at 7:05 by our new president, Robert Stokes!
2. Robert began by introducing Leslie Leggett, new president of the Bristol Historical Society. He read a letter she wrote to SHS dated February 20, 2010 basically asking for collaboration between historical societies in our five town district. Suggestions include joining together at the 2011 Vermont History Expo in Tunbridge, visiting each other's societies, and having five-town social events. Leslie spoke about discussions she's had with Jeanette Sherwin, president of New Haven Historical Society, who is interesting in getting together. She also mentioned inviting us to see the Bristol Historical Museum and said that we could set up a display in one of their small display cases, as well as go to their meetings. The Lincoln Historical Society (president Eleanor Menzer) has a museum in a donated house that we could visit; the Monkton Historical Society (president Gill Coates) has no display area but is also interested in getting together.

We decided that SHS is very interested in pursuing connections with other historical societies in our five-town district and thanked Leslie for the wonderful suggestion.

3. Update on Local Events

-*Sheldon Museum* exhibits are running until April 17 in Middlebury

-*Senior dinner* will be on March 25 at 11:30 at the Baptist Church here in Starksboro

-*Sugar on Snow party* will be on March 27 from 1:00-3:00 also at the Baptist Church. There will be painting of sap buckets for children, sale items including Bertha's Book, Starksboro afghans, and t shirts to support the Village Meeting House, as well as raffle tickets to support the Jerusalem Schoolhouse (raffle for a painting by Cynthia Kling) and the local READ committee (raffle for a rocking chair made by Jim Geier)

4. After reviewing the SHS minutes from our Annual Meeting on January 19, 2010, they were approved.

5. Treasurer's Report: Sarah Adams not present but said it was 'status quo'.

6. It was suggested that we send out a mailing to get our yearly donations in. Gerald said that he sent out applications for this year's renewal in Bristol and will send us a copy as a guide (Ruth received this and will send it to Robert – thank you, Gerald!)

7. It was discussed as a serious need for Sarah to send out updated membership lists to officers (Robert, EmmaLou, Cynthia, Ruth) and trustees (Olive, Linda) as soon as new folks join SHS, and to let us know us know by dating the list. It was also suggested to add to the list the year one joins. Gerald also offered to send us a list of their membership (Ruth received this also and will send to Robert – thank you, Gerald!)

8. Cynthia will do her Mormon Trek to Utah program for SHS on April 16. We will have a potluck at 6PM, open to the public, at the Baptist Church. **Jobs to do:**

- publicize the event
- get key
- set up tables, etc
- start coffee
- paper products (who has these?)
- clean up

Please call Robert at 453-3068 if you'd be able to help!! Thanks.

9. Linda tracked down Kevin Danne for the *Lewis Creek, Lost and Found* program. It would cost \$100 which we could split as a co-sponsor with the Jerusalem Schoolhouse Lecture Series. Linda will continue pursuing a date, but we thought of Sept/Oct as a target. We passed a motion to approve contributing \$50 for this program (update since our meeting: Kevin is probably relocating to California and is not likely going to be available after all).

10. Gerald Heffernan may be available to do a program in May on *Remembering Little Ireland and South Starksboro* with stories from the Depression era. Ruth will be in touch with him to see if this will truly be possible after putting him on the spot at our meeting (my most humble apologies, Gerald!).

11. Discussions for SHS programs in 2010 ensued...we reviewed the list generated at our Jan. 19 meeting. New possibilities: visit the Farnsworth Museum in New Haven located beyond Beeman Academy; Green Mountain Club with Cecilia Elwert, caretaker of Jerusalem Trail in So. Starksboro); Rodney Orvis, sister of Linda Barnard; Betty Norris.

12. Robert talked with Elsa about the LCBP grant mentioned at the January 19 meeting - the grants they were offering were more designed for the Conservation Commission. No further action was taken (other than offering our support to the Conservation Commission if they went for it) because of this reason.

13. Robert has been reviewing SHS bylaws and past minutes. He said

- we don't always follow through from meeting to meeting
- we need to have continuity with grants

- the President is supposed to appoint an Auditor to give a report at the first meeting of the year
- maybe we need to look for things to revise in the bylaws
- the Treasurer's Report should be passed to the Secretary if the Treasurer is not present at a meeting

We agreed with Robert that it was a good idea to be more vigilant with these matters. As a new organization, we have been very busy getting our society up and running, with a lot of excellent happenings over the last 4 years, but that we will keep a closer eye. Robert took the Secretary's binder to review more thoroughly.

14. Future agenda items for June Meeting (date not set, but our next SHS program is *Mormon Trek to Utah* on April 16):

- look over bylaws
- long term project, i.e., 2011 Vermont History Expo in Tunbridge
- calendar for rest of 2010
- fundraising
- accessions/archival materials

15. Other business

-Gerald mentioned that the State of Vermont Surplus Supply on Spear St. has storage materials for sale such as desks, flat files and other items at a good price.

-Linda mentioned that the Jerusalem Schoolhouse's septic system is in the works with Denny Casey, and they will most likely need to raise the foundation and pour cement, but their fundraising events have been very successful so far.

Motion to adjourn at 8:30PM was passed!

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Beecher