

Village Improvement and Historical Society of Royalston, Ma
Pot Luck Supper and Meeting
October 24, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by the President Peter Kraniak. 10 members and guests were present.

The minutes of the July 18, 2014 meeting were read. Phil Jacobs made a motion to accept the minutes and it was seconded by Stephanie McClure. The vote was unanimous.

The treasurer's report was given by the Treasurer, Mark Smith. The balance in our account as of October 23, 2014 was \$30,208.22. The membership voted to accept the report. Vote was unanimous. It was suggested that we have an itemized list of expenses and Mark said that he has that and can show it to the membership

Pierre requested a membership list and donor list and that in should be placed in the website and published in the newsletter which will be done.

Stephen Chase gave over to the society a check for \$100 which was a donation from the reunion of the Chase family which took place this past August.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion centered on the grant we received from the MHC to help us find an architect so that we can proceed with the process to obtain a bigger grant to work on the building. The state was impressed with our written proposal and when Marie Hunblett went to the meeting the first thing she saw on the screen was a picture of our building and we were top in their list.

An advertisement was placed in the newspaper concerning our need to find an architect and mailings were made from a list supplied to us. Two proposals were received. One from Margo Jones in Greenfield and the other from Red Hawk in Concord. The committee that looked over the applications consisted of Pierre Humblett, Stephen Chase, Patience Bundschuh and Peter Kraniak. The decision was to go with Red Hawk and this decision was sent to the MHC. Now we have to wait for things to continue from that end. We will need to place a sign in front of the building which is a set dimension and coloring which has been told to us by the MHC.

Once we see what the architects say about the building, then we can start a community wide appeal and write a grant for a larger amount. This grant proposal has to be ready to go by March 15m 2015. Every dollar that we wish to obtain must be matched by contributions or CPA. We could try to apply for federal grants as well through the Preservation Trust.

Pump. We still need to place a pump in the basement of the building so that we don't have the flood we did in July.

Pierre took a louver out of the cupola to see how it was constructed. It is so large it could not go through the opening to the cupola. It actually fell apart so a new one has been constructed. Josh

Doub made a new frame now the sides have to be cut to receive the louvers. Steve will help install it.

NEW BUSINESS

Pierre discussed the idea of asking for rent for the Post Office. He understands that the town gets \$18,000 a year from the federal government to keep the PO.

Is it reasonable to charge \$80 / month? Mrs. Vining, when Post Mistress paid the society \$10/month. We need to talk to the selectmen to see if rent is possible without harming the post office. Peter Kraniak will talk with Linda Alger.

Mark Smith suggests that we communicate via our web site which is more efficient.

Discussions:

Programs concerning various areas, such as our community which would raise awareness of Royalston.

Raising dues

Attracting members

Seeking Volunteers

Help sort through items in the building

Beth suggested that we ask for pictures to be given to us for the 250th next year showing Royalston today and each and every day and if they have pictures of 100 years ago to allow us to copy them.

Beth also suggested that next April we advertise a trip to Sir Issac Royal's house in Medford.

It was also discussed that we should place a new Post Office sign in front of the building since the one there now is in need of some work.

Steve brought up the subject of the film showing the floods that took place along the Miller's River in South Royalston in the 30s. He was online with Boyd Estes and the price to get a DVD copy made is \$400. Questions were raised about the fact is it worth it to have it done. We could present it at the town hall to the community but since there is no sound we would have to do something to make it less boring. We could ask for donations to offset the cost. A motion was made and seconded to spent the \$400 and try to obtain that back. Approved.

Boyd also said he has aerial views of Royalston and would we like them and we said yes. Steve sent him an e-mail telling him yes on both the film and aerial views.

Should we consider doing some guided tour walks of areas around the community where buildings once stood and discuss the significance of them? This being in conjunction with the 250th. There was some discussion pro and con.

We discussed the Craft Fair that the 250th is having on Nov, 15th at the community school and we will have a table there to give us some exposure. We had one last year. Peter Kraniak will set up and later Stef and Sue will come in to help.

Mark Smith suggested that we try to put together a basket or something of similar nature so show off items to sell. He will come up with some ideas.

Suggested also was a money jar.

Stephen had an e-mail from Mr. Tom Doyle, librarian at Woburn Public Library that he has a letter dated 1850 concerning water rights. The letter was written by A.G. Newton to Mr. Holman. It is being offered to us and we said we would like to have it. Steve will contact MR. Doyle.

Within the next two weeks Mark will send a notice to members to let them know dues are due-\$5 a year.

MEETINGS for 2015

January 16

April 17 - Pot Luck Supper

July 17

Oct. 16 - Pot Luck Supper

Suggestion was made to send out a quarterly newsletter before each meeting.

Peter Kraniak will start to work on the Christmas Star which dates to Donald Stimson's time when he made it. Being out so long in the elements the bulbs cannot be taken out as they are rusted in. There will be a new lighting system using LED tube lighting.

Within the next week the Royalston Historic District signs will start to be placed on the roads leading onto the Common.

Steven will install the sump pump. The bulk head doors leak and solutions to that problem were discussed.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The proposed slate is:

President : Peter Kraniak

Vice. President: Stephen Chase

Secretary: Susan Smith

Treasurer: Mark Smith

Auditor: Andrew West

Motion was made to accept the slate by Phil Jacobs seconded by Pierre Humblett. Vote was unanimous.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Gospodarek,

Secretary Pro-Temp