

Voluntown Historical Society
May 16, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 P.M. by President Jen Panko at the Sterling Grange, Sterling, CT. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

President's Comments: Jen Panko stated everything that will be discussed is in Current and New Business.

Jack Wesa made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 15, 2017 meeting. Winona Berdine seconded it and all were in favor. The April 2018 minutes will be accepted at the next meeting.

No Visitors and six members were in attendance.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Anne Nieminen presented the treasurer's report. Checking account starting balance was \$3354.83. Checks were written to John Banks \$150 and Tamarack Lodge \$388. A deposit of \$671 was made. Balance as of 5/16/18 is \$3487.83. Fund Raising account \$765.00 and CD \$40126.61 (coming due 10/8/18). Karen Britt made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Jen Panko seconded it and all were in favor.

Current Business:

- **Membership and Society Viability:** Jen stated the need to change with the times, shake it up, be visible and remain optimistic.
- **Wylie School Status:** Jen has been speaking with First Selectman, Tracey Hanson. Fixing the bell and the cost of it was discussed. Karen Britt's husband offered to look at the yoke. If it needed to go to Pennsylvania to be fixed, Winona offered to transport it. A new flagpole is needed. Jack Wesa still has the "repair" list from 2 years ago. He will email it to the members along with the pictures he just took at Wylie School. Still waiting to hear if VHS will receive a matching grant that Julie Soto submitted. Other grant opportunities were discussed. Jen stated it is in the lease that the Town maintains Wylie School. VHS is willing to help the Town by raising money for the maintenance costs. The condition the school is in now, the community cannot use it. Karen Britt needs to be able to take her students in November, since it is part of the school curriculum. Members need to stay on top of the Board of Selectmen.
- **Methodist Meeting House Status:** Tracey Hanson is still working with Greg Farmer. He is writing up Request for Proposals (RFP's) for the Methodist Meeting House.
- **Liability Insurance:** The need for liability insurance to use the School was discussed. Jack is meeting with the Superintendent and will ask a few questions pertaining to it. VHS is not covered by the Town. Winona will check if the CT Historical Society offers liability insurance to Historical Societies that are members.
- **Archival Data Entry Workspace:** The volunteers do not want to work in the basement. It was discussed where they could meet. Possibly on Thursday in the meeting room, when the building inspector is there. It was suggested that Julie check into this to check availability.
- **Webpage:** Winona said it is up and working. Paying dues and making donations via the webpage was discussed. Winona said PayPal would be the cheapest route. There is a VHS email account that will be used: voluntownhistoricalsociety@gmail.com. A mailing list is being set up.
- **Research Requests:** There have been requests for research. Jen will continue emailing them out to the membership. Anyone interested can answer them. A few people have already.

New Business:

- **By-Law Revision:** The revised By-Laws had been emailed to the executive board. Members present went over the by-laws. The following items were changed from what was presented.

IV. MEMBERSHIP.

D. Life: Open to regular members who ~~have been~~ **are** in good standing, ~~for the previous ten consecutive years.~~

IX. MEETINGS.

C. Subsequent meetings shall be scheduled quarterly for Summer (June/July/August), Fall (September/October/November) and Winter (December/January/February), weather and other factors permitting. The annual meeting of members shall serve as the meeting for the Spring quarter (March/April/May). The format for the Summer, Fall and Winter meetings will be **announced in advance**, ~~a dinner meeting with a meal served at nominal cost and a program presentation of historical interest or as suggested by Society members.~~ ~~The dinner meeting shall be scheduled from 6 to 8 pm on a date and place to be determined and announced two weeks in advance, with dinner tickets required in advance and available for purchase at the Town Hall or by contacting the Society via email to voluntownhistoricalsociety@gmail.com.~~ ~~Purchase of dinner tickets shall not be required to attend the program.~~

D. The Order of Business for the quarterly ~~dinner~~ meeting shall be:

- Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Welcome
- Announcements and Society Updates
- Treasurer's Report
- ~~Dinner~~ **Old Business**
- ~~Program Presentation~~ **New Business**
- Adjournment

Jack Wesa made a motion to approve the By-Laws as amended. Karen Britt seconded it and all were in favor. So carried. Dues were discussed and they will be set at \$20 for this year.

- **Nomination and Election of Officers:** There was a short discussion. Current officers were willing to be nominated and elected for another term. Winona made a motion to leave the existing officers as is for another term. Karen Britt seconded it and all were in favor.

President: Jen Panko

Vice President: Julie Soto

Treasurer: Mary Anne Nieminen

Secretary: Cheryl Sadowski & Beth Taylor

Per new By-Laws, the President appointed two members at large for Executive Board meetings. The members appointed were Winona Berdine and Karen Britt.

Jack Wesa made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jen Panko seconded it and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:21 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl A. Sadowski, Secretary