

Wakefield Heritage Commission
Meeting Minutes – May 6, 2015 - Approved
Heritage Centre at Wakefield Corner

Members present: Chair Pam Wiggin, Vice Chair Peter Brown, Nancy Hall, Phil Twombly, Helen Watkins, Snooky Shea

Members not present: Cory Fothergill, Alternates Bob McChesney, Colleen Nicastro, Selectmen's Representative Connie Twombly

The meeting opened at 7 p.m. at the Heritage Centre of Wakefield Corner with the Pledge of Allegiance. Donna Lee Martin videotaped the meeting (starting shortly after 7).

Financials: April financial statements indicate expenditures in the clerical wages, heating fuel, and advertisement budget lines (in 01 accounts) approaching or exceeding budget. Clerical wages are 55.68 percent expended out of an annual budget of \$1,946. Year to date on this line item is \$1,083.45. Heating fuel budget is 63.47 percent expended with \$600.89 remaining and advertising is 60 percent expended with \$60 remaining. Wiggin made note of the fact that although the clerical budget is more than 50 percent expended, much work has been accomplished thus far this year and that Larissa is working on many different type of projects, such as the redesign of the web site and regular Facebook postings, press releases, etc., that had not been done in the past. She will meet with Larissa and put together a priority plan for the remainder in the year and if needed, additional funding may come out of the 04 account. Peter suggested putting a plan together for a vote at the June meeting.

Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes as presented was moved by Peter and seconded by Phil who added the minutes were very comprehensive and well done.

Correspondence: A history of the Wakefield Corner Store was left in the WHC mailbox at town hall. Pam filled out and submitted a membership form to the Wolfeboro Area Chamber of Commerce with a fee of \$89 (billed at a later date). The membership enables promotion of Wakefield's historic attractions. Pam also reported the Explore Border Villages brochures have been printed. Larissa offered to pick them up from Susann Foster Brown's studio in Milton. Pam also filled out the application form for a Pride Day booth to the Wakefield Chamber of Commerce (No fee charged to chamber members.)

Peter received a printing estimate from Kingswood Press for notecards with the Newichawannock Bridge and Canal pen and ink drawing, which is the WHC logo. The cards will be packaged in lots of 10 and sold for \$12 at Pride Day and other venues. The price is \$355 for 500 cards in natural white card stock. A motion was moved and seconded to order the cards.

Christmas in Wakefield Corner: Pam reported that the Wakefield-Brookfield Historical Society will be a partner in this event on Dec. 13 and will open the Little Red Schoolhouse for tours. The day will start with the musical program at the First Congregational Church of Wakefield, from about 2 to 3:30 p.m., followed at 4 p.m. with tours at open homes, the Wakefield Inn, FCC church, Little Red Schoolhouse and the Wakefield Public Library. Peter said this past year the WHC and the church made \$1,000 each, and the group will have to think of a way to come up with another \$1,000 for the third host. Pam stated the fundraising goal for each organization is \$1,200. The organizing committee meets again in June.

Blacksmith shop roof: Nothing new to report as no new bids have been received.

Web site: Larissa updated the web site with pictures from the NHPA forum; the site has had its most hits ever with almost 1,000 in the month of April, according to the counter on the Go Daddy web administrator page. Photos and a brief were also posted on Facebook.

Union Station Railroad sign: The railroad sign has been found – Cory took it home to repair it.

Docent Recruitment: Docents will be recruited on Pride Day, May 16, at the WHC booth, and if needed, a second docent meeting will be held later this summer. A docent training session will be held on June 13 at the Heritage Centre of Wakefield Corner.

New Hampshire Preservation Alliance Statewide Historic Conference: Members who attended (Pam, Peter, Helen and Larissa) gave a brief overview of highlights of the conference that was held on Friday, April 17 in Concord. Peter learned about successful efforts in the Squam Lakes area to place historic, older camps on the National Historic Register. The historic preservation group partnered with a conservation alliance – most of the mountaintops and view-sheds are protected, as are the shores at the old camps. He suggested Wakefield should do the same with some of its historic camps on Lovell and Great East lakes. Pam added that if a property owner desires to place a property on the historic register, it takes thousands of dollars and they can't do it themselves; a survey is required. Larissa said she enjoyed the tours and the segment on marketing and communications; Helen enjoyed the programming as well, saying she learned that historic preservation is a multi-level endeavor. Pam noted that many people she spoke with had heard about Wakefield's accomplishments (WHC projects) and that Wakefield has made a name for itself. At the seminar, James Garvin expressed overall support for the Newichawannock Bridge and Canal. Pam suggested the WHC could start meeting, perhaps in the fall, with other preservation groups in the seacoast to exchange ideas, resources and accomplishments.

Pride Day: Peter, Pam and Phil (driving) will lead two driving tours of town historic sites on Pride Day at 1:30 and 3:30; tours will commence from the Public Safety building parking lot. The suggested donation/fee for the tour is \$10 per person. Sign up is required. Members manning the WHC booth (Nancy and Helen) will sell mugs and

crocks, note cards and plaques. Snooky added that he is now a committee member/WHC liaison with the Union Valley Community Association; the group would like to participate with WHC during Pride Day; it was suggested that it was too late to include tours of UVCA properties this year, but that the WHC would enjoy working with UVCA on tours during Heritage Day (July 25) at the Drew Mill, Blacksmith Shop and Heritage Centre of the Branch River Valley.

Branch River Valley Scenic Byway: Pam attended a sparsely attended meeting with members of the Strafford Regional Planning Commission regarding an update to the scenic byways map. She said to be listed on the byways map, participants must meet with SRPC annually. She suggested the commission might recommend the byway be extended to include the Newichawannock Bridge and Canal site. Pam updated the group on the work of the Moose Mountains Regional Alliance, a collaborative of seven towns working to promote tourism in the eastern lakes region.

Memorial Donation: Peter made a motion seconded by Snooky to donate \$50 to St. John's Church in memory of Barbara Trafton.

Other: Phil said winter has taken its toll at Heritage Park, where he has been cleaning and raking. He recommended the purchase of a good grass fertilizer to spread around the Union Station, Freight House and park area. He recommended 10 bags would be needed. Peter made a motion, seconded by Snooky, to allow Phil to spend up to \$200 on fertilizer. In other maintenance matters, Phil reported that since the spring thaw the septic system at the Union Station seems to be working fine.

Pam requested a six-month extension of the Commission approval to replace storm windows at her house, which is located in the Wakefield Corner Historic District. Phil made a motion, seconded by Nancy, to approve the extension. The vote was unanimous.

Nancy asked if repair work on her garage roof required any special permission from the WHC and members indicated it does not.

Pam reminded members said the bell from the primary school, part of the Centre's exhibit, needs to be moved up from Union. Phi suggested since the bell is so heavy and cumbersome, a mover should be hired to relocate it. Snooky agreed moving this heavy item may be dangerous. Nancy suggested that young men from the area could be recruited to move the bell and she may know someone. Phil said he'd ask the town public works director for assistance, as perhaps the town's front-loader could be used to move the bell. In other maintenance matters, Snooky said the Spinney Meeting House is in need of an exterior paint job.

A motion to adjourn was proposed and seconded at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted - Larissa Mulkern