

Starksboro Historical Society (SHS)
First Baptist Church
May 28, 2024
6:30-8:05PM

ATTENDEES: Mike and Deb Blakeslee, Dan Baker, Elsa Gilbertson, Olive Phillips, Peg Casey, Ruth Beecher, Cecilia Elwert, Kevin Hanson, Pete Antos-Ketcham, Steve Thurston, Monique Thurston

WELCOME: President Mike Blakeslee called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes submitted by Elsa Gilbertson for meeting on April 30, 2024 were moved, seconded and accepted with no discussion.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Dan Baker reported there's currently \$2,237.99 in SHS Community Bank Money Market account, with some deposits to make (sales of road booklets, membership dues, interest) as well as some expenses (purchase of road booklets, service charge). Report was moved, seconded and accepted after some discussion:

-discrepancy of \$10 (plus interest) due to possible sale of road booklet, which brought up the question of when sales are made at the Town Clerk's Office, we need a system to collect the money

-Dan and Mike Blakeslee are both signatories on this account. Now that we're resurrecting this committee since COVID, we will get back on track with accounting.

-Mike did all the back tax forms, so we're current until next year

BYLAWS and OFFICERS: Kevin Hanson located the bylaws on the SHS website as no one had a hard copy on hand (now we do!). Bylaws can be altered by a majority of Officers at Annual Meeting with pre-notification and a quorum. Mike moved to waive pre-notification for the purpose of adding a third Member at Large, and deducting the 'Corresponding' Secretary to our slate of Officers to elect tonight. Moved, seconded, accepted with no discussion.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Mike Blakeslee announced he is stepping down as President. We thanked him for his service and are glad he's still planning on joining in as a community member! We also thanked Elsa Gilberton for her long-time service as Member at Large, and are grateful she is also still planning on joining us as a community member!

Motion made, seconded and approved with no discussion to elect full slate of officers:

President: Dan Baker

Vice-president: Olive Phillips (re-elected for new term)

Treasurer: Kevin Hanson

Secretary: Ruth Beecher

Members at Large: Pete Antos-Ketcham, Peg Casey, Herb Olson (even though Herb was not in attendance, he had indicated prior interest)

PROGRAMS/EVENTS:

Elsa Gilberton has offered to do a program about strong women in Vermont's Champlain Valley during the American Revolution on Monday, June 24 at the Village Meeting House. We will have a brief business meeting at 6:30 followed by the program at 7:00. Elsa will send more information to Ruth, who will post the event on Front Porch Forum; Elsa will do other advertising two weeks prior.

Mike is pursuing a program for the fall with John Croft, head cartographer for the Vermont Transportation department. (Incidentally, he is also in charge of LIDAR mapping). Program would be on the McCullough Turnpike, and would hopefully take place at the Jerusalem Schoolhouse. (Right next to this turnpike, now known as Rt 17.)

Future program ideas include joining in with our State, who is gearing up for the upcoming 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 2026, and the 250th anniversary of the Republic of Vermont in 2027.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Library and historical content: Dan mentioned an email he got from the new librarian regarding videos of Bertha Hanson's lecture series, wanting to know what SHS wants to do with them. There are also other items in the library: a historic map on the wall belonging to SHS, a Bible, and other things from old agricultural societies. Questions

were raised about museum space for SHS to display items - maybe upstairs in the library once the elevator is installed? Further discussion needed, especially with retaining safety of objects. *Moving forward, Dan said he will follow up with the librarian, with Kevin's assistance as archivist.*

SHS Archive Room: Located on the second floor of the Town Offices, SHS has a small, locked room with artifacts, including drawings by Cynthia Kling, long-time member of SHS. Keys to this room are now in possession of Town Clerk, Amy McCormick, Dan Baker, Kevin Hanson, and Ruth Beecher.

Cemeteries: Mike is trying to connect with Vermont Old Cemetery Association (VOCA) to schedule a work day on the village cemetery, which includes stones from the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and the Civil War. VOCA would help clean and set stones through their own grant funding. It's important to get on VOCA's list, even for next year. Elsa mentioned that stored in the town vault is a goatskin map of the village cemetery.

Discussion ensued regarding what's been done and what needs to be done in all of Starksboro's cemeteries. *Moving forward, Pete Antos-Ketcham and Cecilia Elwert offered to be the point people.*

Presentation of Current Website:

Kevin Hanson, creator of the website, gave a presentation. He went through the site with us, mentioning that since its creation, it has lost some interactiveness with changes in technology. The site is still very viable and loaded with information regarding our Town (and more), and Kevin is still willing to maintain the site! We discussed having a potential Scanning Day for historic photos in the winter months to then add to the site.

NEXT MEETING:

Date: JUNE 24th, 2024

Time: 6:30 brief business meeting, followed by Elsa's program at 7:00

Location: Meeting House

CLOSING: As new President, Dan Baker thanked everyone for coming!

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Beecher