

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED

Starksboro Historical Society (SHS)

Date: 3/3/25

Location: Library

Time: 6:30 - 8:25PM

OFFICERS PRESENT: Dan Baker, Elsa Gilbertson, Peg Casey, Kevin Hanson, Ruth Beecher

MEMBERS/VISITORS PRESENT: Cecilia Elwert

WELCOME: We started with a lively chat, and were called to order at 6:45.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: A motion was made and seconded to approve the Annual Meeting minutes from 1-27-25 with no discussion.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Current balance of \$2714.76 was detailed by Kevin Hanson for activity 1/28-2/2/25.

ARCHIVIST'S REPORT: Kevin noted that he has continued filing items previously accessioned to "prove out" the new database software setup; migrated cemetery database to Recollector; prepared Collections Management Policy for review; and discussed environmental conditioning of the Collections Room. He recommended purchasing a Govee WiFi thermometer hygrometer temperature sensor for which a motion was made, seconded and approved for up to \$50.

PROGRAMS/EVENTS: We discussed our first Community Photo Scanning Day to be held as part of the town-wide Chili Cook-off and Sugar on Snow party on March 8, 2025 from 11-2. Kevin will bring the scanning equipment, forms, laptop and cord; Ruth will bring a table and a historic Games and Toys kit from the Sheldon Museum. Kevin and Ruth will set up at 10:15; Dan will be there 11-12:30.

Elsa suggested a program with the Vermont Humanities Speakers Bureau, specifically Chris Hadsel and her Historic Theater Curtains program. We agreed to suggest co-hosting this program with the library in the spring, April or May. Ruth offered to pursue with the library, and Chris Hadsel.

BY-LAWS REVISIONS: A motion was made and seconded to adopt the bylaws as amended. Motion passed after some discussion.

COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT POLICY: A motion was made and seconded to approve the Collections Management Policy as drafted by Kevin. After some discussion, the motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS: The Regional Historical Society Meeting is in April - who will go?

250th: Dan mentioned there is a round of grants coming up. Ideas included Bertha's Book updates; map of historic sites in town; town events; new book of town history; tools demo. Mike Blakeslee offered to do a period service and sermon appropriate to each year of the celebration, if able, and is 'open to whatever'. Peg mentioned how fun it was when Mike had a cook fire in front of the Meeting House years ago! We discussed the importance of having hands-on activities to bring history to life for kids. Elsa mentioned there is a series of short videos of Mt Independence.

Bertha's Book: Work is underway by Elsa to create a supplement and sequel to Bertha's Book, which contains the history of Starksboro as told by Bertha Hanson in about 40 submissions to the Starksboro Annual Reports from 1954-1994. Elsa said there is prep work to be done regarding *specific locations* in Starksboro, which we can all help with by reviewing Bertha's Book chapter by chapter. She shared a template so folks can sign up for chapter(s) to help update the book. We need someone to be in charge of disseminating the sign-up sheets, and collecting the information. Dan will make a sign-up sheet for the Photo Scanning Day on March 8th.

Elsa's Book (Not her title!): As a joint project with the Historical Society and the Meeting House, Elsa wants to create a new book regarding town histories she has spearheaded for many Town Reports. Themes include: Goods and Services; Revolutionary War for Settlers; Sugaring; Education; Roads; Farming; Logging and Wood Products; Industries; Civil War; and more.

Stowe Historical Society: Kevin received an email requesting information about our Community Photo Scanning Day. Kevin shared information with the Stowe HS that he received from the Monkton Historical Society that helped launch our scanning day.

Elderly Service Project Independence: Ruth received an email requesting someone to do a "Backyard History" program with the Adult Day Center. Kevin said he has a program on the Meeting House that he would be willing to share in the future; Ruth will relay to the activities coordinator.

Vermont Historical Society: SHS rejoined VHS! Dan shared the membership card which allows all SHS members some benefits: free admission to the Vermont History Museum in Montpelier and the Vermont History Center in Barre; unlimited free use of the Leahy Library; a 15% discount on museum store purchases; and more. Members are also able to bring one guest for free when visiting the museum or library. The Vermont History Museum in Montpelier is a wonderful place to bring your whole family - very engaging exhibits, with some hands-on history as well. Enjoy!

NEXT MEETING:

Date: May 5, 2025

Time: 6:30PM

Location: Library

CLOSING: Meeting adjourned at 8:25PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Beecher