

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED

Starksboro Historical Society (SHS)

Date: June 2, 2025

Location: Library

Time: 6:30 - 7:45 pm

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

MEMBERS/VISITORS PRESENT: None

WELCOME: Called to order at 6:40

SECRETARY'S REPORT: A motion was made and seconded to approve minutes from 5-5-25 (kindly written by Monique Thurston, edited by Ruth Beecher) with no discussion.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Beginning Balance \$6,855.01

Income (Roads Booklet, donation, interest)

Total deposit and interest: \$15.17

Expenses: (Vermont Humanities) Painted Theater Curtains program: \$75

Community Bank balance: \$6,795.18

Accruals: \$37.50 Library's share of Painted Theater Curtains program

Uncommitted bank balance: \$6,832.68

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report with a short discussion that Kevin will check to see if he sent a copy of the invoice for the Painted Theater Curtains to the Librarian in order to receive their share of the cost (\$37.50).

ARCHIVIST'S REPORT: None. Elsa passed on some newspaper clippings for the collection, including obituaries for longtime Starksboro residents Cynthia Kling, Lucille Shiverette, and Chris Runcie.

BERTHA'S BOOK PROJECT: Elsa and Dan each did a chapter. Reminder for all of us to pursue this Location Reference Project to update Bertha's Book. Discussed the need for an online method to identify which chapters have been completed and which chapters are currently claimed/being worked on in order to determine which chapters are left. Kevin will send a blank copy of the form we are using for this project. The Recollector Program will ultimately be used to enter the information into our database.

WALLINGS MAP: The Wallings Map of Addison County that SHS restored years ago was taken down from the Library wall it had been hanging on since restoration

completion. The map was removed from the wall impacted by the lift construction project to keep it safe from dust and debris, then placed on the floor of the stage upstairs. We decided as a group to bring it back downstairs to a free wall away from the construction project to keep it stretched out properly and safe from anyone potentially walking on the stage. Dan will contact Catherine to let her know - we will move it elsewhere if need be.

PROGRAMS/EVENTS: Elsa suggested with the approval of the Jerusalem Schoolhouse and Firehouse Station Project that we do a program in September on the history of the Jerusalem Schoolhouse, inviting former students of the schoolhouse to share their stories. Perhaps we could also display the schoolbooks, as well as the schoolhouse bell, along with some other materials we have in our collection. Some discussion also of perhaps doing a program on the Fire Department up south.

Vermont's 250th Anniversary in 2026: Elsa is on the Education Committee of Vermont's 250th Commission. She reported that no money has been designated from the State government to support this project. Her committee is dealing with some challenges in what direction to take in planning.

We want to keep going with our Town's celebration! Ideas discussed include:
Mike Blakeslee's period service and sermon, hands-on demonstrations
Elsa's Town Reports history project since Bertha Hanson passed
Display old machinery, artifacts, etc with to some to actually try out and use
Children's games from times gone by
Scythe demo (save a field in advance)
Involve Robinson School
Perhaps have a parade with floats - farming and agriculture, sports, education, etc

OTHER BUSINESS: Kevin mentioned Pebble Brooks' event to celebrate the formation of the Starksboro Cooperative Preschool 50 years ago which will be held on June 12 at the Pavilion behind the Meeting House and Town Office.

NEXT MEETING:

Date: September 8th at 6:30pm at the Library (or the 15th if the Library is not available)

CLOSING: Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Respectfully submitted, *Ruth Beecher*