

**Pawlett Historical Society
Trustee Monthly Meeting
Minutes May 13, 2021**

Weather: We basked in the sun on what had to be the best weather we've had this year; quite a contrast to the Winter weather on Wednesday. The setting sun was the indication that it was time to conclude our meeting, at 2010 hours.

Minutes of April meeting: approved on a motion of Judy and 2nd by Sarah.

Treasurer's report: approved on a motion of Susan and 2nd by Sarah. A couple of points. We're still receiving membership dues, running ahead of budget, but we're still in a deficit for the year due to the cancellation of our appeals effort, and work on the cemetery, which hadn't been budgeted. But capital gains on our investments leaves us in a very strong financial position. We had a brief discussion on whether to put some money in a more secure investment, but didn't pursue this.

Nominating Committee; Barry will set up a meeting this month with Judy, Sarah, and Steve and report back in June.

Newsletter- going to the printer's on Friday- with ads-for the 1st time. Rose will send invoices out with copies of the newsletter to advertisers next week. Thanks to Sarah and Susan for getting another one published. The next one will appear late July/early August. Also, thanks to Matt for suggesting advertisements.

Collections: Rose shared another postcard purchase of a beautiful, unidentified infant. And we discussed a postcard of 2 Pawlet churches that was taken from an angle different from any we had. Worth buying for \$15 if still available? Why not? Sarah commented that we were making headway on cataloguing, with Judy and Sarah Ludlum making real progress.

Martha regaled us with a telephone conversation with Felicity Hitt, who grew up in a house with 5 generations of the family living there. I won't get all of the details but Felicity's Mom was Gertrude South, who raised her son and daughter by herself after her husband abandoned the family for Maine when Felicity was 11. She never saw her father again. There is much more to the story, and Susan is going to look at the transcript done by the Rappaport's on this family with the intention of dedicating a future newsletter to this. Judy, Susan and Martha all added personal anecdotes to this. Quite remarkable!!

We need security for the computer ay NPS; Rose has been providing this but she'll purchase an embellished Norton system since a rudimentary version exists, so we can download it online. We agreed that we should pursue a debit card for the Society to pay for items like this in the future, rather than having to reimburse members after the fact.

Farm project: Ashley returns today, so she will start arranging interviews. We'll ask her to transcribe Bill Moore's interview.

Old Cemetery restoration. Abbie will follow up with Sara to see if Community Outreach has provided any names. She will also pursue an online sign-up sheet and get friends and acquaintances interested. We agreed volunteers could work a half day or full day- 9 to 12, a 45 minute lunch break and then resume from 1-3. Steve had forwarded a note that he and Barbara had recently visited the cemetery and exclaimed how large it is. If you haven't visited it after the trees/ brush was cleared, please do so. It goes back much further than is apparent from the front. A group of us will visit the cemetery to try and identify graves from Revolutionary War veterans, which might be prioritized for the cleaning. On a personal note, I think starting from the back and working forward would facilitate a more organized, less haphazard approach, especially since we want to fix gravestones that have toppled over. Your thoughts?? We will identify what needs to be purchased at our June meeting. Can KEITH provide us with a trunkful of clean fill or surepak to fill in /restore fallen gravestones??

Speaker's Forum/Ice cream social- scheduled for August 29th; rain date Sep 11th. We'll pursue plans in June.

Podcast- I suggested a podcast of significant homes/ or 6th grade essay sites, as a way of getting us ready for our 250th Anniversary. Abbie suggested Reed Bryant of Dorset might be able to help with the podcast, or to suggest someone.

Martha had sent out photos of display signs in West Pawlet that are examples we could use when we begin putting up signage.

Next meeting- June 10th at the chapel, outside at 6:30, weather permitting. Otherwise, we'll move inside. PLEASE NOTE START TIME: 6:30 PM

Submitted by Barry Meinert