

NEW LONDON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Board Meeting January 27, 2016

Minutes

Present: Roger Smith, Chair, Jack Adams, Emma Crane, Justin Garcia, Debbie Hall, Linda Jaggard, Sue King, Laurie Lauridsen, Tom Little, Kevin Scarlett, Sandy Schmid, Clara Sheehy, Maureen Strachan; also attending Patty McGoldrick, Executive Director

Absent: Jeremy Bonin, Tom deMille, David Royle

The meeting began at 5:15 pm.

Tom Little presented the Treasurer's report. A question was raised as to whether the work on the Lauridsen Acquisitions Building was complete; it is not. Tom noted that he had put in \$2,400 this year for administrative support for further work on the database. That raised the question whether Mary Fenelli's work will decrease now that she knows the system. The conclusion was that it probably would not, because now we have the capability of using our database in more sophisticated ways. After the discussion, the Treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

Committee Reports:

1. Program: The program on New London history by Ron Garceau was reported to be excellent, especially with additional information supplied by Jim Perkins, Laurie Lauridsen and Tom Little. The next program will be "Bad Man Carr," presented by Jim Perkins, on February 9 at Tracy Library.
2. LAB: The LAB planning group has a total of \$21,000 of Raise the Roof funds available to finish the building. There has been considerable discussion as to what to call the building and the Gallery. A motion was made, seconded and PASSED that the building should be called the Lauridsen Welcome Center and the gallery the Maude Swift Gallery. A function in connection with the opening of the center is to be held Friday, September 16 through Sunday the 18th. The Friday night event will be by invitation only and will include a silent auction. We will also be selling bricks to be inscribed by the donor to be used for a walkway to the Welcome Center.
3. Retail: Sales will be primarily in the General Store and will include cards and stationery, a possible Historical Society cookbook, gift items and homemade and children's items. All items will fit in with the country store milieu, will have fairly low price points and will be made in the U.S. The LAB will have a selection on hand to show what is available in the store.
4. Young at Art: Planning is underway; the format will be similar to 2014.
5. Summer camp: Maureen Strachan reported that she has a great committee including several professionals knowledgeable about camp programs. The

director will be Heidi Unger. Maureen is working on getting the license from the state and the budget is in progress. The camp will run July 11-22 and offer two one-week sessions to 4th and 5th graders. They are aiming for 20 children per session. Each session will be different, so children who want to can sign up for both. The cost will be \$200/week and there will be no additional insurance cost. The kids will bring their own lunches.

6. Sundays in the Village: Justin reported that there will be a dedicated Colby-Sawyer intern helping with Sunday programming. They are focusing on five focus areas: lifestyle, farming, animals, survival and lacrosse.

Patty reported this year's Raise the Roof results. The goal was \$15K. We raised \$18K and then received an additional \$10K from the Blounts, making a total of \$28 to be added to the \$19K we already had on hand.

Tom demonstrated his progress in programming tablets for self-guided tours. The initial version has been prepared. The programs will use an NLHS intranet, so they will not be internet-accessible. Links to Facebook and other social media are being considered.

Patty and Roger reported that a letter soliciting business partner memberships will go out mid-February. Members of the Board will be assigned to follow up on the letter with phone calls.

A motion was made to move forward with planning for the addition of public bathrooms. It was VOTED that we should pursue planning for bathrooms. A discussion ensued as to the location of the bathrooms. The original idea was to put the in a shed-like addition on the back side of the Phillips Barn. Some thought that was too out of the way. An alternative suggestion was to put them in a shed-like addition to the side of the Transportation Building facing the Barn. That location is more visible and also has the advantage that the TB is heated all winter.

The discussion then moved to how the bathrooms would be paid for. The cost is estimated to be \$50K for the bathrooms and \$10K for the related septic work. We have \$123K in cash currently. Roger would prefer that NLHS take out a letter of credit, in order to have funding flexibility, and has applied for a \$200K letter of credit from Lake Sunapee Bank for capital projects approved by the Board. The Board then VOTED to approve the application for and use of a letter of credit.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Hall, Secretary