

## MIDDLESEX HISTORICAL SOCIETY SPRING MEETING 5-14-14

The Middlesex Historical Society Board of Directors met at 7:05 p.m. at the Middlesex Town Hall for their spring meeting. Present were Patty Wiley, David Newhall, Dick Alderman, Manny and Mary Garcia, Sarah Seidman, Charles Martin and Richard DeCosta. Newhall was pretty spry after a winter on the mend from his broken leg, and Dick was welcomed home from his winter dwelling in Tuscon, AZ. Martin and DeCosta were in fine form despite the challenges of beginning construction work on their home on Minister Brook.

Richard moved and Mary seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the 1-16-14 annual meeting. Motion carried. Treasurer Dick Alderman reported a \$3848.67 balance as of 5-1-14. This includes \$640 raised from local businesses in a Town Meeting appeal, as well as \$254 in Town Meeting dues and book sales. The CD worth \$7174.65 matures next 9-11-14. Dick moved and Richard seconded a motion that the treasurer's report be approved. Motion carried. Seidman will create a form thank you letter template for donations, complying with IRS regulations so these tax-exempt donations are properly acknowledged. Dick will send as complete a list of business donors and donation amounts as possible to Patty.

The new Middlesex Country store has opened, sporting red rafters, fresh flowers, and a friendly staff. Seidman delivered four more books to the Red Hen bakery and café in early May.

The VT History Expo June 21-22 will feature a Middlesex booth created by Patty, Mary and Manny, and David called "The Lost Village of Wrightsville." The group went to a workshop at the VT History Center on creating exhibits, and has been meeting weekly to work on the exhibit, which uses two hinged doors to display photos with captions and a 1933 map of the village. Since our \$100 fee for the Expo also bought a History Center membership, members can now use the research facilities at the Center for free, including the "[ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com)" website.

The group has traced the old Horn of the Moon road from Barbara Hull's, followed the old Shady Rill Road from the swimming area, found an old stone bridge abutment and explored the old cellar hole next to Medad Wright's home. There was even evidence of plans for a proposed railroad from north of Montpelier to Morrisville. Seidman said MHS owns an audiotaped interview with Wrightsville resident Earl Cooley and suggested that might be played in the display area.

Wiley will contact Brian Lindner about doing a talk on the plane crash on Camel's Hump for the MHS fall meeting. Proposed dates are Saturday Sept. 20, 27<sup>th</sup> or Oct. 4 with a Friday evening as an alternate date. Wiley purchased a Citizen's Band radio club license on eBay showing residents Curley and Anna (Maie) Dailey's membership. Dick showed off a "charter stamp" commemorating the anniversary of the chartering of the town of Berlin. Dave brought enlarged photos of Middlesex Village from between 1910-1927. Clearly shown are piles of lumber from the Mad River Valley and the huge area of land later lost as the river shifted during the 1927 Flood. The fall business meeting will be held Tuesday Sept. 30, 7 p.m. at the Town Hall. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Sincerely,

Sarah Seidman, VP/Secretary