

MIDDLESEX HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING 1-16-14

The Middlesex Historical Society Board of Directors met at 6:45 p.m. at the Middlesex Town Hall for their annual meeting. Present were Patty Wiley, David Newhall, Manny and Mary Garcia, Sarah Seidman, Charles Martin and Richard DeCosta. Newhall was greeted with special affection, since it was only his third outing since he returned home from the rehab center, where he was mending after breaking his leg in a fall 12-2-13. Martin and DeCosta, who lost their home in a fire in December and their friend and charge, Gary, to illness shortly thereafter, attended with their customary good humor despite these life-changing circumstances.

Director Patty Wiley's seat on the Board was up for re-election and Martin moved that she be re-elected to a three-year term. It was seconded by DeCosta and approved. The group agreed by consensus to leave the dues the same for another year--\$1 per person and \$15 for businesses. Seidman will prepare a letter to go to the following area businesses asking for their support: Red Hen, DuBois, Hartigan's, Verizon, Suburban Propane, Onion River Animal Hospital, Bob Onne's School of Healing Arts, Green Mountain Florists, Nutty Steph's, Sticks 'n Stuff, Camp Meade, Second Hand Sally, Pease Farm Stable, Wendell Electric, John Picard Excavating, Jerry Sklon's Lockworks. The Directors' meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

The annual meeting of the Middlesex Historical Society convened at 7 p.m. with the same members present and also member Ron Krauth. Krauth moved and Newhall seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the 9-25-13 meeting. Motion carried. DeCosta moved and Manny Garcia seconded a motion to re-elect the same slate of officers for another year: Wiley as President, Seidman as VP/Sec., and Alderman as Treasurer. Motion carried. Treasurer Dick Alderman is in Tucson, AZ, and reported via email that there was little change in the Society's finances. Seidman will check whether the Red Hen ever paid for the four books she delivered in November.

The Society discussed plans for Town Meeting on March 4. Alderman will be at the MHS table from 10-1, Wiley from 1-4, and Seidman from 4-7. Krauth noted that people who want to attend by phone or computer from a remote location may contact him or others on the Solutions Committee.

De Costa reported that the Middlesex Newspaper is no longer being published because after the flood in Barre, the Times Argus could no longer print the paper and Neely has been unable to find an affordable printing company. The paper is sadly missed, members agreed. Wiley reported that the original green sign

for the Middlesex Country store was returned to Sherwood's family and the new owners hope to make a replica.

The Wrightsville Village area was a subject of discussion. Wiley has been tracing out old roads that led in from East Montpelier, and Garcia has located and resized photographs and print maps of the buildings in Wrightsville before they were removed to construct the flood control dam. The bridge over Shady Rill was raised twice; a 1940 map shows the plans for changing the bridge height and the route of Rt. 12. The group decided to host an exhibit at the History Expo in Tunbridge June 21-22 about Wrightsville. The Krauths still have the two hinged doors previously used for exhibit, Wiley will contact the Expo to reserve a place. Wiley noted that the old cellar holes and fieldstone abutments of the bridge by the old LaChapelle Farm (now the western edge of the reservoir) are still visible.

Krauth reported that he and Anita attended a presentation on the CCCs at the Vermont Historical Society but were disappointed at the lack of information about camps in central Vermont. Leona Brook, living with her son in FL for the winter, sent a holiday letter along with her annual dues, and noted, "I feel Middlesex will be in my blood forever."

Newhall passed around a thick book of newspaper clippings from the early 20th century collected by Ron Bruce's mother Cora, using grocery bags as the cover and to mount the clippings. Many deaths, murders and catastrophes are recorded; the Society is welcome to scan pertinent information before returning the document. Wiley purchased two new postcards: an unusual view of Slip Hill and an unidentified Middlesex mountain range. She also bought a beautiful and detailed 1911 ink-on-linen map showing that the "traveled way" through the village was mostly on the opposite side of the tracks from where Rt. 2 runs now. The Society decided to invite Brian Lindner to give a talk on the airplane crash on Camel's Hump for its fall presentation in September/October. Wiley will contact him to check on his availability. The next meeting will be held Wednesday May 14, 7 p.m. at the Town Hall. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Sincerely,

Sarah Seidman, VP/Secretary