

Salisbury Historical Society
May 21, 2019

This was the first regular 2019 meeting of the Society and, as usual, featured the winner of our \$5000 scholarship. Paul LaRaia, chair of the Scholarship Committee, introduced Kinley Gaudette, who read her essay on Clara Barton. Refreshments followed, then the general business meeting began at 6:40 pm.

Secretary Gail Henry nominated David Merwin to be President of the Society. He had been appointed by the Executive Board but not voted by the full membership. Linda Denoncourt seconded the nomination and the vote was unanimously in favor.

By-Law Changes: The Executive Board proposed six changes, five of which were clarifications of existing By-Laws. The first four changes, in Section 1, added a sentence noting whether officers' positions are elected or appointed.

The fifth change, creating item B.) in Section 2, added the sentence, "*Family members may not serve on the Board at the same time.*"

The final change was to Section 3 regarding the length of Trustee terms. There was discussion of changing the current six-year terms to three years but that was voted down by a show of hands. Section 3 will now read as follows, with the change in italics: "Three Trustees shall be elected for six years, one at each election to provide overlapping terms. A Trustee must be a member in good standing, their dues must be current and they must attend at least 80% of Business and Executive Board meetings unless excused. *An elected Trustee who has served a full term may not succeed himself.* In the event of a vacancy, the Executive Board shall appoint a member to serve the unexpired term.

Trustee Report: Joe Schmidl said the Trustees, who now comprise the Investment Committee, have met three times with Al Romano, a Society member who is in the investment business and has agreed to be our financial advisor. Roughly three-quarters of the legacy left to the Society by Dr. John Kepper will be invested at relatively low risk, probably earning 5%-8%, and we will endeavor to use interest only for small projects and needs. Dr. Kepper's intention was to sustain the Society for the long term.

Joe also said the Trustees have prepared the annual budget but we need to think about fundraising opportunities in order to break even.

Diana Celmer reported on the care of the two large sugar maples on our property, both of which need work. Diana's husband Ken, a retired professional arborist, and Frank Grano of Bartlett Tree have looked at the trees and feel there are up to ten good years left in them but they very much need dead wood cut out and fertilization. The Executive Board approved this work and it may be done next week. The total

cost is \$2290 but some Society members have agreed to chip in for this job and others were encouraged to help out.

Treasurer's Report: Current numbers: Checking account, \$97,042.44; Two CDs, \$20,177.42 and \$6,470.24; Scholarship Fund, \$14,573.93 (less \$5000 for this year's scholarship winner); Paypal account, \$178.71.

The recent World War II event raised a total of \$1557 for the Scholarship Fund. Membership income for 2019 since the booklet was mailed out has generated \$470.

Membership Report: Gail Henry has been keeping names and addresses of new residents as printed in Sunday's *Concord Monitor* for several months. A welcome letter, along with our new booklet and a membership envelope, have been sent to 17 newcomers so far, with two more to mail. Linda Denoncourt has been giving tours to the fifth-graders and making sure parents get membership envelopes. Linda will represent the Society at Andover's July 4th celebration and have the envelopes there too. All members should talk up the Society to their friends and neighbors and encourage them to attend a meeting.

Open Discussion: Cindy Owen, chair of the Museum Committee, spoke about the need for docents this summer. The Museum will open this year on Sundays from 1 to 4pm. She passed around a sign-up sheet.

Gail Henry introduced Amanda Swendsen, new chair of the Hospitality Committee, and asked for volunteers to help out for future meetings.

David Rapalyea showed the new *Historic Salisbury Homes*, which has been updated and printed at the NH State Prison. These books will be available for \$20 and we can have more printed as needed. Agreed we should update and reprint every five years. Many thanks given to those who worked on updating the book.

Linda Denoncourt noted that the Museum will open this coming Sunday and the grounds need a bit of work. She needs volunteers to rake, weed, etc.

Eric Swendsen brought up the fact that we need better communication about meetings and other events. Agreed we need a chair for the Publicity Committee, but for now we use *Lifelines*, our website, our Facebook page and the Friends of Salisbury page on Facebook.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 18, at 6pm. Our program will feature Dr. Robert Goodby speaking on "Digging into Native History in New Hampshire," sponsored in part by the NH Humanities Council.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Henry, Secretary