Putney Historical Society Board Meeting 05/21/18 at 6:30PM

Present:Tom Jamison, Maryann Toffolon, Ruth Barton, Carolyn Handy, Barbara Taylor, Lyssa Papazian, Barry Stockwell, Betsy MacIsaac, Tim Ragle arrived about 7:30

Secretary's report:

Draft minutes of the 04/24/18 meeting and revised minutes of the 3/26 meeting were previously distributed by email. A motion was made by Carolyn and seconded by Barbara to accept the minutes as presented. Motion passed.

Treasurer's report:

Tom reported savings account balance is $1,339, veterans memorial fund $16,143, church capital fund $5,127, church contingency account $5,692, operating account $8,055. Operating account includes $5000 outstanding check, grant funds received for General Store. A motion was made by Lindley and seconded by Maryann to approve the report as presented. Motion passed.

Old Business:

Ruth commented that she enjoyed the Stockwell Brothers concert at Legacy Putney festival. Barry reported that the festival was a success, our Tuesday night presentation by William Hosley and Thursday Nora Jacobson plus Putney films were well attended. NSAP is hoping to something like this annually, as 2 or 3 day community oriented programs series. NSAP is planning story telling events on the 2nd Wednesday of the month beginning 6/13 in the new Next Stage Cafe venue in community room.

Barbara followed up with Dan Kubick from Putney Mtn Association board about historic ridgeline guided walk on Putney Mtn. They envision looking at landscape and evidence of its connection to early inhabitants. Too late to organize for this year. Lyssa mentioned she wrote a ridgeline history about 10 years ago about protecting the ridgeline for the Conservation Committee. She will try to locate it.

Carolyn, with Barbara’s help, submitted grant application to help fund the historic building walking tour pamphlet project. Sue Kochinskas will set up the brochure layout. Tim is working on photos and drawings. Plan to finish in September, send to printer 9/6, launch on website 9/15 and kickoff presentation at Next Stage 9/16. Ruth suggested that we combine this with our annual meeting. Barbara spoke to our insurance agent to see if there would be a problem listing residences on the brochure, would there be any liability issues. Agent suggested we should notify homeowners about the walking tour. Maryann says the plan is for 12 – 20 buildings, built before 1850. We will have Laurel review the historical descriptions for accuracy. Anyone interested in working on the historical descriptions?

Betsy mentioned she ran into Neil Madow who owns the little historic brick building and he said he is planning to turn it into an apartment. Betsy is concerned due to parking issues and lack of other business establishments downtown.

Ruth signed the 990 and it went in the mail on time. General Store received a $5000 grant to assess the situation and prepare a marketing and financial analysis to help find someone to take over the business. Funds will go into a new savings account.

New Business:

Tom suggests we start working on newsletter. Tom got a PHS voicemail message from Zsolt Takacs who was a Hungarian refugee who came to Putney 1956-1957 as a teenager. He is looking for a newspaper article in a local paper about a soccer game played by the refugees against a team from England. Barbara checked with SIT and Nat Hendricks to find information with no success. Could it have been published in Dwight Smith’s Putney Post?

We should start working on the 2019 calendar with the goal of having ready for sale in September if possible. Tom suggests using Reformer photos this year, he checked with them and we just need to credit the Reformer for photos. Need to find a new printer, Prospect Press closed down. Use C&S print shop?

Lyssa and Betsy gave an update on the General Store. Trying to pull together financials for one year to help sell or lease the business. They have talking with advisory group Jeff, Paul and John Burt have been very helpful and supportive over the past year. Plan to approach a broker to help. A man from Maine that approached us last year has been back in touch, says he may have funding now. Lyssa asked for a board member to become involved with this process, Ruth volunteered.

Katy, the store baker, has agreed to become a co-manager which is a great relief to Lyssa and Betsy. Lyssa thanked Tom (and Nancy) for delivering the mail and for serving as assistance treasurer. Lyssa reported they are considering installing a bathroom upstairs, Paul said we could apply for grant funding for the project. Margot Torrey’s family approached us to store/display the remains of her collection.

Annette Wilson dropped off a box of stuff from Frank Wilson’s collection in Greg’s barn. Appears to be letters from late 1800’s and old town reports. Ruth will start review the next time she is at the open office on Saturday. There is also a box of children’s books that were illustrated by a woman born in Putney, donated by her niece.

Tim passed around the historic building drawings he is working on.

Meeting adjourned at 8pm