Putney Historical Society Board Meeting 10/25/18 at 6:30PM

Present:Ruth Barton, Barbara Taylor, Laurel Ellis, Tom Jamison, Tim Ragle, Maryann Toffolon, Lyssa Papazian, Betsy MacIsaac, Lindley Speers

Guests: Deb Maynard, Evie Lovett

Deb is willing to help with website. Nothing new posted since 2015, she will remove some old stuff and what new would we like to add? Add the historic building walking tour information. We will mention a link on the brochure to more details on our website. Some content is available now. There is one house we aren’t sure what the correct number is – ask Tom Goddard to confirm. Sue Kochinskas is doing the brochure layout. Add newsletters, minutes, town report summaries, photos. Ask Sue if she has digital copies of past newsletters. Photos should be low resolution, we could rotate the display. List items for sale, put up a store linked to PayPal. Weekly office volunteer could process orders. Add a link to our membership form. We do have a PayPal account, Deb may need the credentials. Theme we are using for website is no longer supported so will need to switch to a new one. Find out if we have Facebook page. We thank Deb for helping us with website.

Evie says about 4 years ago she asked us for permission to use scans of school group photos outside the Washburn School. She made some photocopies and incorporated images in paintings and is here today to ask if that is okay. She has used Brattleboro Historical Society photos and arranged to pay them 10% of sales price if she sold the art. Has sold about 5 images so far. Discussion followed regarding ethics related to using images without the subjects permission. We tabled a decision on the matter, we will discuss and let Evie know. Suggested we should contact Barbara George at Brattleboro Historical Society or the VT Historical Society to see what their policy is.

Secretary's report:

Draft minutes of the 8/27/18 meeting previously distributed by email and the 9/16/18 annual meeting minutes handed out today. A motion was made by Barbara and seconded by Maryann to accept the August and September minutes as presented. Motion passed.

Treasurer's report:

Tom reported the newsletter membership response has been very poor. We didn’t insert payment envelopes in the newsletter this time. Facebook link would help. Dues are $25 family, $15 individual, $5 seniors. Account balances are savings $1340, veterans memorial fund $16,159, contingency $10,829 and $1,456 in operating checking account. Should we send postcard reminder to membership list? Put up a poster here at General Store? A motion was made by Lyssa and seconded by Laurel to accept report as presented. Motion passed.

Old Business:

Can we all do 1st Thursday of the month meeting? Let’s begin next Thursday 11/1. We will discuss ideas for another newsletter, think about changes to website and policy for photo use. Also need to discuss what to do about the General Store. Lyssa and Betsy cannot continue running things after January 1. Have not officially advertised yet, it would be expensive. Could reach out to people who were interested in the past. Maryann suggested getting an article in Yankee magazine? Met with Phil Steckler, business broker in Brattleboro, he was not very encouraging since we aren’t in the black. Could someone please volunteer to call past interested parties - Owner of Duo? Lisai’s at the Chester store? Laurel’s son is friend of Lonnie Lisai. Does Paul have any ideas? Lyssa and Betsy mentioned that Basketville retail store is closing. Winery will stay for the time being. Tom is willing to make a few phone calls. Lyssa will send information to anyone who needs it.

Discussed walking tour brochure timeline. C&S grant will cover print costs, need to give some money to Sue K.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm

Respectfully submitted by Lindley Speers