Putney Historical Society Board Meeting 12/06/18 at 6:30PM

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

Secretary's report: Draft minutes of the 11/01/18 meeting previously distributed by email. A motion was made by Barbara and seconded by Lyssa to accept the November minutes as presented. Motion passed.

Treasurers Report: Account balances are savings $1340, veterans memorial fund $16,165, contingency $10,833 and $1,370 in operating checking account. Tom suggested he could send letter to lapsed members and include return envelope. A motion was made by Carolyn and seconded by Barbara to approve the report as presented. Motion passed.

Old Business:

Maryann gave an update on progress with the historical building walking tour brochure. The committee met with Susan Kochinskas today and decided to change the format to a 16 page booklet. This will allow room for 2 buildings per page with map on the cover. Will include a page with form/information for donations. They have not contacted all building owners yet.

Barbara got an email from Justin Altman on behalf of the Grammar School 4-5 grade who is interested to learn about old Putney houses and do an audio tour. We can help with research materials.

Barry and Barbara reported on efforts to rent the 2nd floor of General Store. Barry spoke to the Putney Craft Tour folks about using the space in December but they are not able to pull that together in time. Currently have some craft tour items displayed in the window downstairs and some customers have expressed interest in buying those items. Store personnel generally try to get in touch with the craft person and arrange payment amount.

Lyssa has a verbal agreement with Antidote Bookstore owners for use of second floor to open a café/espresso bar with seating and sell used books, would be a 3 year lease.

Carolyn reported on business sale committee progress on writing a business prospectus, press release and newspaper advertisements. Have draft copy of short, medium and long ads which Carolyn will share with board members. Will need to revise the ads and prospectus to account for proposed lease of second floor. Lyssa suggested wording as follows “a business subletting second floor” at $975 per month for the first year. Carolyn contacted Erin at VRGA and she is willing to send a press release to some contacts. Working on quotes for ad costs at various New England newspapers, estimates so far run $80 - $200 for a few days. Will need to know how much we think we can afford for advertising. We will wait to proceed until we resolve purchase price and revised wording on prospectus, press release and ads.

Discussed whether we should change the purchase price to $100,000. Lyssa has difficulty justifying how we came up with the $120,000 purchase price. Start up loans purchased inventory which now totals about $55,000. Consensus is we should start at $120,000 and will have room to negotiate if necessary. Lyssa will now be on payroll as manager and Betsy will be stepping down in January.

Laurel needs confirmation from all board members that they reviewed the 990 tax form. All present tonight confirmed that they had received and read the 990.

A motion was made by Lyssa and seconded by Carolyn to authorize Putney Historical Society to guarantee the General Store application for $5,000 overdraft protection with the bank. Motion approved.

Lyssa is looking for help in December to clean up the basement and clear out the second floor before January 1. Would like to borrow shelving from our third floor storage space at Next Stage as well.

Barbara asked if we will have funds this year to pay sales and use tax? Store borrowed from PHS last year, Lyssa thinks they will be okay this year.

Someone is looking for old pictures of Kathan cemetery, we don’t know of any.

Oneida called to ask if we are names after Putney, England? Don’t know or sure.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by Lindley Speers