

Groton Historical Society
Annual Meeting Minutes
July 11th 2023- Peter Paul House

Present:

David Stoner, Dave Pierce, Louise Reynolds, Allen Goodine, Brent Smith, Phyllis Burke, Charles Frost, Vicki Miller, John Kuhnenn, Sarah Spira

Deborah Jurist opened the meeting at 6pm.

Treasurer Report:

The treasurer's report indicates that membership is up, and that the cleaning day in early May led to some additional expenses/ repairs to the house.

Review of articles

Deb Jurist and Dawn Evans have been working to update the GHS Articles of Incorporation. The old articles were focused on the acquisition of the Peter Paul house and getting it renovated. Updating the articles will reflect that the GHS owns the Peter Paul House and looks to the future.

The New articles will be voted on at the August 26th open house & meeting.

Highlights of new articles

- Co-officeholders
- Board of directors expansion
- Planning for the future should the org. shut down- what happens to the property and everything here?

GHS strives to be in compliance with our bylaws- which is why the Annual Meeting and Election of Officers was organized. The organization is very fortunate to have our financial records so well maintained by Susan Pelkey Smith.

Election of Officers

Deb would like to recommend and introduce a slate of officers for the membership's consideration. We have space for 7 directors- 5 officers and 2 directors. If the updated articles are approved, there will be space for 9. Both Charles Frost and Dawn Evans have been put forth as potential additions for when there is an expansion.

The slate of officers proposed includes:

President- Deborah Juist

Vice President- Brent Smith

Co-Secretaries- Phyllis Burke and Sarah Spira

Treasurer- Susan Pelkey Smith

Director 1- Allen Goodine

Director 2- Louise Reynolds

Brent Smith moved that we accept the slate of officers as presented

Dave Pierce seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Patches for sweatshirts

Deb introduced the idea of ordering patches to create GHS apparel to sell, and shared a prototype.

Green Mountain Monogram has provided a quote of approximately \$3 ea, with a minimum of 50 ea.

The patches can get ironed onto a sweatshirt, tshirt, or hoodie. Or could be sewn on. GMM can produce a sample, and then we could take orders. The goal would be to have them available on August 26th, also and Fall Foliage Day.

Deb asked the membership what type of clothing would be of interest. It was concluded that zip up hooded sweatshirts, possibly t-shirts and potentially hats- but not a trucker style. The color preference is green. It was suggested that perhaps Ruth Meteer might be interested in helping acquire the apparel.

Deb made a motion to order the minimum number of patches, for \$200.

Brent seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

Alan Goodine asked to review what is planned for the remainder of the summer.

The following dates were discussed and decided upon:

August 5th Open House

August 26th Open House & Meeting

Focus of that day will be of the exhibit Phyllis has been working on with the newly acquired mannequins: Groton Family Bridal Clothing and Wedding memorabilia. Deb will present on the Sleeping Sentinel.

Regarding the Sleeping Sentinel, It was mentioned that Wade Johnson is trying to fix the monument. He is worried about who is in charge of it - Groton or the State. He wants to make sure he's not doing anything to property that we don't own. Brent commented that the state holds no responsibility for its maintenance. Deb has asked Brent to follow up with Wade.

It was discussed that the monument was made out of Groton granite, which is quite soft and has a bunch of little nicks. Brent commented that the damage could have resulted from when it was accidentally pushed over with a plow truck.

Brent has a comment on the sandwich board sign. He is seeking metal rods- half inch to stabilize the sign so that we don't have to stack rocks or bricks. He's thinking that 8"-10" inches long would be good.

Deb bought a flag mount for the open flag. Brent has mounted it.

Returning the to summer schedule-

September 2nd – Louise and Jim have tentatively offered to volunteer for the September 2nd Open House

First Sat in Oct. is Fall Foliage Day, and there will be a repeat of the August 26th program.

Looking ahead to next year- Deb proposed perhaps looking at military uniforms.

Upcoming newsletter

Louise shared that the deadline for the next issue is Mid September, and asked if there were any ideas to explore for articles.

Allen suggested identifying a photo on the website and to connect with Reggie Welch to trace the genealogy and the family, and the current descendants in town.

Brent thought it might be worth exploring what brings people to Groton- whether a return for a former resident, or a newcomer. For example- Dale Brown. Julie Paton. Grover Smith's daughter. The thought is that it might be interesting to explore people's connections to the area. The CCC was also discussed- that perhaps some of the boys who were in the CCC ended up marrying girls from Groton or coming back and staying.

Deb then gave an excellent talk on Bristol Bill. The talk was recorded, and Louise and Deb will work to create a pamphlet from the content.

Deb made a Motion to Adjourn the Meeting.

Brent seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 7:08pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Spira