

GROTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Annual Member Meeting Minutes

Date: August 2, 2025

Time: 9:30 AM

Location: Groton Historical Society, Peter Paul House

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM by the President Deborah Jurist.

ATTENDEES

- Deborah Jurist President (presiding)
- Brent Smith Vice President
- Louise Reynolds Director Newsletter Editor
- Phyllis Burke Director
- Susan Pelkey Smith Treasurer
- Bob Murphy Member
- Dawn Evans Member
- Wayne and Toni Dyer members

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Wayne Dyer moved to approve the minutes from the previous year's annual meeting.

Second: Phyllis Burke

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion carried unanimously (Aye votes)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Susan presented the financial report for the first half of 2025 (through June 30):

Expenses:

- Mowing (2024 bill received in 2025): \$350
- Books from Amazon: \$435
- Electric bills: \$145
- Miscellaneous expenses: \$136

Financial Position:

- Net income over expenses: \$40 for first six months, excellent position in view of the fact that fundraising is minimal during the first half of the year.
- Checking account balance: \$7,400
- Certificate of Deposit: \$21,000 (up from \$16,000, due to a \$5,000 deposit by the GHS from income in 2025. 4% rate, matures January 2026)

Notes: Amazon payment of \$154 received in July (approximately 20% return on book purchases as GHS owns copyright). Monthly electric bills increased to \$30 from \$15 monthly due to dehumidifier operation. This expense will be reduced again during the winter months when the humidity is naturally very low.

Action: Treasurer's report accepted.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

All current officers consented to continue serving. Phyllis Burke will continue as a Director only resigning her role a Co-secretary.

Current needs:

- One additional Director position is open (9 total positions authorized only 8 are filled)
- Secretary position (Sarah's library schedule conflicts with Saturday meetings, we could use a co secretary for this purpose)

Motion: Wayne Dyer moved to approve the slate of officers including Phyllis Burke as Director only.

Second: Bob Murphy

Vote: Motion carried unanimously

ARCHIVIST REPORT

Jane Caldwell submitted written report (distributed via email and on Google Drive for future reference.) Key recommendations implemented or under consideration:

Completed Actions:

- Safe opened with assistance from GHWGW Locksmith Company
- Code recorded on secure document
- Contents inventoried: building deed, old insurance policy, safe instructions
- Noted: William Scott pardon documents not found in safe which is probably due decision made by previous Directors to moisture issues
- Powder horn had been relocated from safe to cabinet storage and now resides in vault

Ongoing Projects:

1. **Window Protection:**
 - New black out shade installed in West Parlor (\$55)
 - UV-blocking film applied to select windows in garage and basement

- Double-layer application recommended for 98% UV protection
- Estimated cost to complete basement and garage windows: ~\$75
- Expense for film approved by members

2. Emergency Preparedness:

- Building access and closing procedures documented and stored in kitchen sewing table lower drawer which is located next to the sink.
- Key distribution confirmed. All Directors except Patrick have keys to enter the PPH.

Keys to the PPH Distribution:

- Phyllis Burke:
- Allen Goodine
- Brent Smith
- Sarah Spira
- Louise Reynolds
- Susan Pelkey Smith
- Deborah Jurist

FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

- Door to basement has been opened and a new lock installed by Allen Goodine

Approved Expenditures:

- Window film project authorization: ~\$75 for basement and garage windows. Also film for pantry windows and front hall sidelights was approved
- Future blackout shades as current ones require replacement with Thanks to Allen Goodine for installing shades as well as donating and installing new rug in garage
- Smart TV purchase for showing videos

Funding Strategy:

- Include window/archival improvement project in fall fundraising newsletter
- Emphasize tangible, manageable contribution amounts (\$50-60 per window)
- Continue outreach to lifetime members for ongoing support
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TECHNOLOGY UPDATES

- Wi-Fi connectivity established through partnership with neighboring business
- Future improvement planned when Terrence's building (former bank) connectivity is established: Village Compute, providing enhanced access for meetings and research

DONATIONS RECEIVED

Recent Acquisitions:

1. **Millstones:** Donated by Bill Putnam from Tannery Brook Road grist mill site
2. **Books:** Donated by Donna Wolschlager
 - Two copies of "Mr. Glover's Groton" (old and new versions)
 - "The Sleeping Sentinel" (Canadian printing)
 - "Vermont Quarterly Gazetteer" (1862)
 - Railroad map (1862)
 - Welch family genealogy (Edmund and Jonathan Welsh families)
3. **South School photographs:** from Kathy Creaser
4. **Baseball and Basketball uniforms and baseballs from 1957** which belonged to Loren and Lawrence Daniels donated by Lawrence Daniels
5. **Wooden wardrobe** installed in front hall to house sports items for permanent display from Deborah Jurist

Book Management:

- Discussion on selling duplicate copies of "Mr. Glover's Groton" (\$25 suggested price)
- Coordination with library for non-rare informational books, so that they can be loaned out
- Inventory review of books planned with Sarah

ACTION ITEMS

1. Provide key to requesting member
2. Complete basement window film installation with volunteer assistance
3. Prepare fall fundraising letter highlighting archival improvements
4. Research and document millstone history for public education
5. Coordinate book inventory and potential sales/library transfers
6. Label building access instruction drawer in kitchen
7. Install electric outlet in Vault for dehumidifier and lighting
8. Pursue installing bars on south facing window in Vault and securing vault door with a lock
9. Brush removal where tree was cut down last year
10. Removal of old rug to dump
11. Remove the Christmas lights from the front door
12. Catalog work. The George Millis photo collection is a good project to work on...
13. "Sale" or "best offer" on Oct 4th. Numerous items we found in garage, not worth working too hard to sell, but too good to throw away
14. Sept. 6th open house Brent and Deborah
15. Volunteers on Oct. 4th...Metal Detector at 10 am.

PRESENTATION

"Groton During the Early Years of the Depression" given by Deborah Jurist based on Town Reports covering years 1931 through 1934 and an essay by Emily Dwyer 1995

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned approximately 11:00

Minutes prepared by: Deborah Jurist (from recording) and with assistance of Jim Kuhnhenh using chat GPT and Claude ai services to provide outline.

Next Meeting: *To be determined*