

Waterbury Historical Society Board Meeting

Steele Room

February 19, 2025, at 4:30

Present: President Cheryl Casey, Joe Camarata, Archivist Stacey Askew, Margaret Moreland, Skip Flanders, Bill Woodruff, Margo Sayah, Laura Parette, Anne Imhoff and Grace Sweet Copies to Jill Chase and Jan Gendreau
Guests: Bob Finacune and, on ZOOM, Rebecca Ellis

Minutes of January 15: Anne made a motion to accept the minutes, Margaret seconded the motion. Approved.

Waterbury Dam: Rebecca Ellis who is on U.S. Senator Peter Welch's staff, spoke about the **proposed financing by the Congress** for the repairs to the Waterbury Dam by the Corps of Engineers, New England Division.

Authorization by Congress is separate from appropriation. The authorization has always gotten bipartisan support. The maximum Federal share in 2016 was \$10 million. Now the cost-share is 7.1% of \$100 million. The Corps is seeking input from the Waterbury Historical Society. The Society's major concern is in regard to the facing stone which was laid by hand. It begins about five feet down from the top of the dam. We ask that the stones be returned to their original placement if they get disturbed.

Cheryl Casey will write the letter to the Corps on behalf of WHS.

Bob Finacune of Waterbury is a former Waterbury Dam engineer. He shared several photos of the construction of the dam in the 30's. Green Mountain Power operates the gates and maintains them.

Ghost Walk: Skip reported that **Jan Gendreau** is hoping that Roy Arnold's grandson from N.H. will come to speak about Roy Arnold who carved the circus figures that are housed in the Shelburne Museum. Another possibility in the Hope Cemetery might be about Mr. Hebert who was a R.R. station agent. Another thought is about the fountain in the cemetery.

Items for Merrills' Auction House: ***Cheryl and Jan will go to the storage unit in Waterbury Center to determine which items should go.***

Annual Appeal: Jill, Cheryl and Laura wrote thank you notes to those who donated. *Joe and Cheryl are going to contact folks we were new members in 2024, but did not renew to determine "Why not?". Laura will include a reminder to pay the dues in the next newsletter.*

Programs: Skip reports that the **program on April 30th** will be a remake of his presentation about the **early railroad in Waterbury** when the granite sheds were here and there were several sidings. The summer picnic date, place and program TBD. In the fall the plan is to invite one or more post and beam carpenters from VT who worked on the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris to speak about the restoration of the Monitor Barn in Richmond.

Open Houses at the History Center on holiday weekends – May 24 and 25, July 5 and 6, August 30 and 31, and October 11 and 12 from 11a.m. to 3 p.m. At least three people are needed for each event. *Laura can find possible volunteers from the list of members.*

Revitalizing Waterbury is looking to open the Community Room at the train station. *R.W. is looking for volunteers to man the space.*

Vermont Historical Society Cohort Project: On April 18 the topic is the deaccessioning process. The point is to prioritize items that tell Waterbury's story. On March 20 there will be a ZOOM meeting of the Cohort at 10:00.

See emails for reports from the treasurer and the committees.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20

Next meeting: March 19 at 4:30 in the Steele Room

Notes by: Grace Sweet