

# The Falmouth Historical Society

Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Zoom Meeting—September 12, 2023

The meeting came to order at 6:35 p.m. Present were board members Betsy Whitcomb, David Farnham, Ron Scorsone, Sally Farneth, and Sue Farnham.

## **President's Remarks**

David reflected that our operational tempo seems higher than in past summers. There is no slack time during our days at the Museum. We are busy “doing history,” but we’re not alone. Interest in history has perked up. More people are contacting us in-person and online for help with their own history projects. Some have research skills and experience but turn to us for local knowledge. Many want to share the stories of their neighborhoods or families with others. We hope to draw a few into our Local History Committee.

## **Secretary's Report**

Minutes. The August minutes were approved online.

Membership. Our active membership is 105. Hannaford became a new corporate sponsor at the “silver” level based on funds raised through the Community Bags Program in August.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Finances. Excluding \$7,500 reserved for the scholarship, the Society has a balance of \$3,102 in its operating accounts and \$23,591 invested with Maine Community Foundation. Our accounts/tax payable is \$206. Our projected end-of-year balance is a deficit of \$934. Our actual expenses are \$338 under budget but our budget carried over a one-time maintenance of \$280 that should have been removed, so our expenses are really \$58 below expected. Our net current assets (excluding long-term assets) have declined by \$683 this fiscal year.

The Audit Committee conducted an internal financial review of the Society's finances for fiscal years 2021-22 and 2022-23 on August 14<sup>th</sup> at the Museum. The review found that the Society's financial statements and government filings are

complete and accurate. Our financial administration is compliant with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles except in two areas.

1. We have not segregated financial administration functions due to a lack of volunteers with the necessary skills and knowledge. The Committee recommended recruiting additional volunteers.
2. Some reports generated by our accounting software are not in the format specified for nonprofit organizations. The Committee had no recommendation.

The Committee concluded that the Society's financial administration meets or exceeds the practices expected of small nonprofits.

Following a brief discussion, a motion was made to accept the report. The motion was seconded, and the board voted unanimously to accept the report as submitted.

## **Committee Reports**

### Programs.

Plans for the Cumberland Fair were reviewed. Boxes will be packed on the Tuesday before the fair. Setup will be Saturday morning. More brochures need to be printed. Instructions for processing credit card transactions are needed.

We will have volunteers at our table in the exhibition hall on Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. We'll send out an email blast to the membership and make another posting on Facebook to remind the members that we'll be there.

Museum Operation & Exhibits. We are continuing to see a steady flow of visitors to the Museum (when the weather is pleasant). We had 3 visitors on August 15<sup>th</sup>, none on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 2 visitors on the 29<sup>th</sup>. We weren't officially open on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, but one visitor came anyway.

Collections. Ron continues his work on the digital catalog. Some pictures taken during the Eagle Scout project aren't usable in the catalog. We need to construct a better light box.

Debi Curry returned the material she had borrowed to complete the Maine Old Cemeteries Association inventory of cemeteries in Falmouth. She also gave us a

thumb drive containing 3.8 GB of files including the results of her research and digitized copies of the source materials. The files are now accessible in the “2023 Falmouth Cemetery Project” directory in the “FHS Documents” folder on the Society’s Google shared drive.

Emmy Anderson brought in some more town papers. Gloria MacGregor dropped off a copy of a subdivision plan for the Flats.

Local History. We responded to nine queries during the past month. Our backlog has grown to eight.

We have resumed adding research material to the website. This month we added two volumes to the “Historical References” page.

Communications. The newsletter is stalled, but we made two posting on Facebook.

Merchandise. We have completed printing and assembly of the first run of cookbooks. We published a total of 23 pairs. Of these, we have sold 7 pairs. There are 14 pairs in stock plus two display copies (one at the Museum, another at Town Hall). We have enough paper to run another three dozen pairs. Now we’ll see how things go with sales of the current inventory.

Museum Buildings & Grounds. Ron made an improvement to the sump system to enable better reporting from the sump sensor. The pump generates so much torque, it became unstable and tipped over. Ron put it back the way it was. He’ll rework the improvement so that it doesn’t affect pump stability.

Development. Nothing significant to report.

### **New Business**

There being no new business, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Suzanne Farnham, Secretary