

## BROOKLINE TOWN HISTORY COMMITTEE

December 15, 2014

### MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Brookline Town History Committee was held on Monday, December 15, 2014 at 6:30pm in the Community Room at the Safety Complex.

Chairman Keith Thompson presided.

Members of the Board Present: Donna Corey  
Scott Grzyb  
Bob Ottavi, Secretary

Members of the Board Absent: Peter Cook  
Nancy Reinbold  
Vicki Pope  
Dan Marcek

Also in Attendance: Krista Thorp

#### MINUTES

Donna moved to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2014 meeting. Scott seconded. Passed unanimously.

#### LIONS SENIOR LUNCHEON

There was good attendance at the luncheon. This shows what great resources are in the town, not only to help people but also bring a sense of community. Scott and other members of the committee showed photos to the attendees after the meal in order to get help identifying the people and places in the photos. One photo of the snack bar on RT. 13 was passed around and everyone was identified. We also found out that they had to stop dancing to the jukebox because there was no license. Scott will update the web site with names relating to the faces in the photo. We will look into putting this photo and story into the Brookliner. There was another picture of the Brookline Drum and Bugle Corp where everyone was identified as well. Some of the other photos were too old and the people could not be identified.

Maybe next time there is a senior luncheon, we can get photos of houses which people can help identify.

#### FREEDOM'S WAY

The Historical Society will participate in Freedom's Way in May by presenting something about the ice house. If successful, we hope this will help increase interest with the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Freedom's Way is part of the National Park Service's way of making known the hidden treasures around the country. Each town needs to promote it within their town. We will help where needed. Keith will talk to the Historical Society.

### STORIES MATTER

Donna gave a demo of Stories Matter. This is a computer program that lets you create a story by tying together video, audio, pictures, attachments and transcriptions to a person or event. Donna showed us how she was able to import the Edith Corey interview along with a transcription into Stories Matter.

We will need a computer server in order to hold all the information that we have. In this way, we can all access the information. Stories Matter has a feature where we can assign a searchable term to a person or event for easy retrieval. The indexing should be a little more definitive than just "railroad". It could be something like "RT. 13, railroad, built". That way we know whether to look at the information or bypass it. We will need to create guidelines when editing something on the server so we don't lose or overwrite some information accidentally. This could be as simple as saving the information somewhere first before making any changes. We also need backup capability.

Scott will talk to Tad about a server. Scott will also talk call Stories Matter technical support to better understand how it works and how several people can safely share and update the information. Scott will double check with Dan too since he has some knowledge of this program.

### STORY CORPS

StoryCorps has been collecting and archiving thousands of interviews which they preserve at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. They are currently working in partnership with the American Library Association to get oral histories recorded. Myra at the library is looking into doing an oral history project with StoryCorps. Keith will talk with Myra. Scott has some experience with Story Corps.

### HISTORY IN MOTION

Krista Thorp is making a lot of progress on writing a play merging theatre and town history. Her current thinking is to create a fictional family adapted from people and events from the town's history. She has a group of actors who will put on the play. Krista has used the town history book and ancestry.com as references. She wants to contextualize Brookline as part of a larger American history. The tentative date for the play will be Saturday January 17<sup>th</sup>. She is thinking of having a potluck dinner at 6:00 followed by the show at 7:00. Video tapping will hopefully be done. She is also thinking of having an open mike night for stories the following week. This will give the opportunity to record more town stories. This is similar to the MOTH program on NPR where true stories are told live on the radio. We will help with the potluck dinner, publicity, video taping, preparing the room and cleaning up.

### TOWN MEETING

Keith has written a draft for the town report and will pass it out for review. January 23 is final date to submit it to Tad.

Scott would like to have some time at the town meeting to explain to the voters what we are doing, where we are in our charter and why we are asking for monies for the book.

### PUBLIC RELATIONS/PUBLICITY

Keith will send out another draft of the flyer.

Maybe we can see how the Economic Development Committee events can be used as traction for our events.

Keith mentioned we might need a sales plan at some point to help us identify how to market the book.

### RESEARCH

Keith will continue to look into how to best find help from students.

Keith still needs to talk with Myra at the library about digitization.

The History of Hillsborough County contains a couple of sentences that Raby (Brookline's prior name) had acquired such a bad reputation that several residents petitioned to have the name changed.

Scott will contact Peggy Hall who may have some Brookline history to share.

Ask other organizations in town to designate someone to help out with the town history. Keith will write an introduction letter stating why we need their help. For example, there is a depth of knowledge within the Fire Department. We could use their help in recalling town events, which can be used as material for the book.

### ADJOURNMENT

At 8:40 Donna moved to adjourn the meeting. Scott seconded. Passed unanimously.

### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on January 19, 2015 at 6:30pm in Safety Complex. The February meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 16.

Submitted,  
Bob Ottavi, Secretary