



Minutes of the Brookline Town History Committee – May 15, 2013 – 6:35PM
Brookline, NH

Present: Peter Cook, Nancy Reinbold, Steve Russo, Keith Thompson, Scott Grzyb (at 7:10)
Absent: Dan Marcek

Also Present: Lynne Abt, Laura Prescott, Barry Reinbold, Peter Webb

Keith Thompson welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Brookline Town History Committee. He introduced Laura Prescott, a professional genealogist, who has volunteered to help us. Peter Webb of the Brookline Historical Society said that his group is very pleased that the Select Board has appointed this Committee that will be working on a new history of the town.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Keith called for an election of officers. Keith Thompson was unanimously elected Chair; Steve Russo was unanimously elected Secretary. The election of the Vice Chair will take place at the next meeting.

THE CHAIR'S REPORT

Keith distributed copies of the History Committee binder to the members of the Committee who were present.

Keith reported that the Committee's Charter is on the Town website. The basic charge to the Committee is to make a recommendation to the Town on how to go forward on updating the Parker history of Brookline, which covers up to 1913. We will need to officially report to the Town at next March's Town Meeting.

Keith reported that there is one vacancy on the Committee that needs to be filled. He said that the Committee can appoint ad hoc members as needed, and subcommittees may be set up when necessary. He recommended that decisions be made by consensus.

Keith reported on his research into other recently published town histories, including a conversation he had with the Portsmouth publisher Peter Randall Co., which recently published two, for \$ 35 and \$ 38 a copy. Keith suggested we might want to use Peterborough's recently issued history as a model. He mentioned that the Nashua Public Library has a extensive local history collection that he and other members of the Committee should visit.

ORAL HISTORIES

Members thought that it was important to conduct oral histories of some of Brookline's more elderly residents. Nancy Reinbold said that she had talked with American Legion members; they are very interested in helping with such a project. Peter Webb said that the Brookline Historical Society has several recorded oral biographies and tape recorders that we can use. Scot Grzyb said that we should publicize that we want to conduct oral histories so that people will volunteer to be interviewed.

It was suggested that we have a Brookline History Day and invite people to bring their memorabilia and talk about their articles and themselves. The senior citizen group that meets at Brusch Hall should be approached also; Scott will work to obtain a list of their members.

Committee members will draw up a list of questions that may be used when interviewing residents. Those present identified these people as ones that should be interviewed as soon as possible: George and Charlotte Farwell, Einer Knudsen, Del Porter, Betty Hall, Steve Homoleski, Mabel Durrell, Edward Whitcomb, Lawrence Soucy, and Florence Soucy.

OTHER PROJECTS:

Peter Cook will start looking through newspapers and church records from the early 1900's (starting with 1914) to uncover events that may not be remembered by residents tapped for oral histories.

Keith will talk with Town Administrator Tad Putney about having some space at Town Hall to keep copies of the interviews, and Committee documents, materials, artifacts, etc.

Perhaps at some point the Committee will have an Archivist.

There should be a list of historical resources in town. The Lions Club, Historical Society, and the Brookline senior group should be contacted.

Clarence Farwell suggested that we issue a booklet of photographs of the Brookline Bicentennial and 225th celebrations as a fundraising project.

We should participate in Brookline Old Home Days, August 22- 25.

We have a page on the Brookline Town website at <http://www.brookline.nh.us/town-history-committee>

The Brookline Historical Society's website is at <http://brooklinehistory.org/>

NEXT MEETING

Upcoming meetings will be held on the third or fourth Monday of the month, whichever day the Select Board does not meet. Our next meeting will be June 17th at 6:30; location to be announced.

Submitted,

Steve Russo, Secretary