

BROOKLINE TOWN HISTORY COMMITTEE

October 27, 2014

MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Brookline Town History Committee was held on Monday, October 27, 2014 at 6:30pm in the Community Room at the Safety Complex.

Chairman Keith Thompson presided.

Members of the Board Present: Donna Corey
Vicki Pope
Scott Grzyb
Dan Marcek
Bob Ottavi, Secretary

Members of the Board Absent: Peter Cook
Nancy Reinbold

Also in Attendance: No one else

MINUTES

Dan moved to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2014 meeting. Vicki seconded. Passed unanimously.

SCANNER

Scott brought the portable scanner and gave us a demo. It is easy to use. In summary, documents to scan can be width of 8.5", scan in black/white or color, handle thick documents and plug into the USB port on a computer. JPEG only format but you could then import the scanned image into a program and convert to another format. The default is 300dpi but with a simple tap of a button, it can scan at 600dpi. The scanner has local memory for hundreds of photos. It also has a SD card slot so that many more images can be stored. Scott will create a simple set of instructions for us to use. It uses batteries and has a power chord.

We can leave it at the town hall and have a sign out sheet or one of the committee members can have it and hand it out as needed.

HISTORY TIMELINE

Bob has updated the Brookline and national events timeline with comments from Donna.

We talked about the timeline, and we all felt we need to add more Brookline events. Other town departments may have some milestones to add.

HISTORY IN MOTION

Scott talked with the volunteer coordinator at Andres who said her daughter is doing a senior college thesis that will merge theater and town history. She would like to access what the town already has so she can work on her skits for the play. She would also like any audio interviews we have. Scott will get together some notes on the recordings and we decided she could have access to the information. This

may fit better with the historical society but we should help where we can. This could also be a fundraiser. We should videotape it when it is presented on stage.

BUDGET

Tad sent Keith an email indicating we should request a 10k warrant article at the next town meeting. We decided that is a good idea and will propose it.

TRANSCRIPTION

Scott will look at the Betty Hall interview and see how Dragon software does on converting it to text. Scott will also look at putting together file structure under Google docs for the audio interviews.

ORAL HISTORIES

Vicki brought the audio disks that Amanda transcribed and gave them to Keith.

Oral history is a means to an end but our charter is still to produce a town history book.

In order to get people in Brookline more involved in the project, maybe the library could offer a recorder and list of questions. People could then ask family members of their memories of Brookline and could do it their comfortable environment. People get the benefit for having an audio copy and becoming part of the project. Keith will talk with Myra at the library to see how feasible this is.

Dan will try to find an app that may fit our needs when it comes to recording oral histories. If there is not one, an option is to see if the NH Humanities Council has funding to create this type of app.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/PUBLICITY

Keith is working out a new version of the flyer and will find out if we can have a table with our flyers at the next blood drive.

The library is ok with doing some type of history fair.

Donna suggested a town history day, maybe on a Saturday at the library. Senior luncheons may also be a good place to get interest for people to offer up stories. We need to work on building trust with the community in order to encourage people to share stories. The Lions dinner on Dec 13th at the fire station could be an opportunity. We could help with other town luncheons and maybe do one on our own.

RESEARCH

Keith will attend a workshop on online databases, Friday Oct 31st at the state library in Concord.

Other things to look into can be related to tourism, campgrounds, and was there a dude ranch in town?

The library is looking into digitizing items relating to Brookline history. Keith will check if photographs are being digitized too. There are already digitized pictures on the historical committee web site.

Dan suggested we look into getting high school students to help us with historical research.

GOOGLE DRIVE

Scott can help Keith with setting up the file structure on our Google drive.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:35 Scott moved to adjourn the meeting. Dan seconded. Passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on November 17, 2014 at 7:00pm in Safety Complex.

Submitted,
Bob Ottavi, Secretary