

BROOKLINE TOWN HISTORY COMMITTEE

January 19, 2015

MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Brookline Town History Committee was held on Monday, January 19, 2015 at 6:30pm in the Community Room at the Safety Complex.

Chairman Keith Thompson presided.

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

Members of the Board Absent: Peter Cook

Also in Attendance: Eric DiVirgilio

MINUTES

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Eric DiVirgilio has a lot of interest in Brookline history and has researched several topics including the railroad. While researching, he noticed some discrepancies in Parker's History of Brookline that he would like to see updated. Eric has a lot interest in being on the committee. Keith will bring up his name to the Selectboard and start the process of getting him on the committee.

STORIES FROM BROOKLINE – the play

Krista Thorp and the Hapless Homespun Theatre Company put on a play based on bits and pieces of Brookline's history at the town hall on January 17th. It was well attended and the stage production was great. There was a potluck buffet before the play that made for a great community night for the people of Brookline. Thanks to Krista for organizing the play and adding to our Brookline history. The play was filmed and will be available on the town's web site.

FREEDOM'S WAY

Keith talked to Peter Webb. There is nothing we need to do except help where needed. Freedoms Way will do the press kit. The Historical Society will probably have an open house.

STORIES MATTER

Scott looked into Amazon web hosting to hold the database. He will start to set things up on a server. He will get the expected costs, which won't be much. Keith will look into approval process to expense this. Maybe a small initial setup cost and then \$10 per month.

Donna will send out information on other software she has looked into in the past; Omeka, Past Perfect, Zotero and Voice Library.

STORY CORPS

Myra at the library is still thinking about this. There is no plan yet about digitization. Scott contacted the Nashua library to see if they have done anything about this. They stated it is somewhat outside the scope of the work they are willing to do.

TOWN MEETING

Keith has written a draft for the town report and passed it out. We discussed it and he will rework into a final copy. January 23rd is final date to submit it to Tad.

PRESERVATION FILM SERIES

Dan talked about looking at things a little differently; start with today and look backwards versus the other way around. He is thinking of a type of "our town" preservation film series. The medium of the current times is more in line of a film versus just audio. It could also be used as a fund raising event. He showed us a 5-minute video he did on the Transfer Station by interviewing Maurice, Clarence and Don. Not only did the film speak to the importance of the Transfer Station but also the great people that are involved with it. It may also peak interest in town history. Keith will check with Tad about showing this video at the town meeting.

Scott brought up about doing something like this when we conduct other oral interviews.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/PUBLICITY

Keith will send out another draft of the flyer. He plans to have it ready for the town meeting.

We discussed the possibility at some time of doing coffee table books on subjects such as the railroad along with maps and pictures. Someone or some group outside of this committee would probably do this. It would be a good way to build interest prior the anniversary celebration.

RESEARCH

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.

Scott and Donna mentioned that we need to update the interview release document. The update will deal with the type of information that we can use and for how long. This is based on the oral history workshop which they attended.

PUBLISHING

Nancy voiced concern that we need to have more focus on writing the content of the book. Even though we are still doing research, it should not hinder us in formatting the content.

Scott suggested we generate a table of contents to identify what we need to do. This structure will make us focus on what we will write. During the writing, we will need to mine the oral histories to find events to match the history we are including in the book.

Prior to the next meeting, Donna, Scott, Keith and Bob will meet on this Friday the 23rd to start this table of contents. The intent is to bring something to the next meeting and present it.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:30 Dan moved to adjourn the meeting. Scott seconded. Passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on February 16, 2015 at 6:30pm in Safety Complex.

We will be changing the day of our meetings in order to accommodate people's schedules. The March meeting is scheduled for Tuesday March 17 due to town meetings. Starting in April we are planning to hold the meetings on the first Tuesday of the month.

Submitted,
Bob Ottavi, Secretary