

BROOKLINE TOWN HISTORY COMMITTEE

April 7, 2015

MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Brookline Town History Committee was held on Tuesday, April 7, 2015 at 6:35pm in the Safety Complex Meeting Room.

Chairman Keith Thompson presided.

Members of the Board Present: Donna Corey
Vicki Pope
Eric DiVirgilio
Scott Grzyb
Peter Cook
Bob Ottavi, Secretary

Members of the Board Absent: Dan Marcek
Nancy Reinbold

No one else was in attendance.

MINUTES

Donna moved to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2015 meeting. Vicki seconded. Passed unanimously.

SELECTBOARD

The Selectboard has approved \$500 to spend toward expenses such as Stories Matters technical support. If there are any future expenses, give them to Keith. He will fill out the request and give it to Rena where it will then go to the Selectboard for approval. Donna will get a subscription to newspapers.com and make sure we all can access the site.

SENIOR LUNCHEON

April 11th is the next senior luncheon if anyone wants to attend. People start showing up around 11:15 for a noontime lunch. It would be a good chance to interact with residents who may have more historical information on the town.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

We discussed that it would be a good idea to have a short article in the Brookliner on a regular basis. In this way we are sharing history and hopefully garnering participation in the update to the town history. Eric and Scott suggested having several articles in the queue and submitting a photograph with the article if we have one. At our next meeting we will review a list of articles that could be done.

One idea we had discussed in a prior meeting was QR (Quick Response) codes at schools. This may a good way to get students interested.

RESEARCH

Scott will create a letter of introduction to other organizations in town in order to get their help recalling Brookline's history. We should ask for a contact person.

Donna has done a lot of research on the ski area and found many names she had questions about. She got some information from the committee to who these people are.

Scott looked into what other towns did for their town history. Lincoln NH had a web site (Lincoln250.org) for their 250th in 2014. We may want something like this for Brookline. Lancaster NH had their 250th in 2014 and designed a logo for it. Various townspeople contributed to their history book. One town used Smith & Town printers in Berlin NH and it was a soft cover book. One had the book in digital format only (easier to publish updates) and have not committed to a hard version yet. Many towns covered a shorter time period for their history update, not the 100-year period we are doing. Conway NH used Past Perfect software but it looks like Stories Matter, which we are planning to use, is better for our purposes. Some of the fundraising things towns did were t-shirts and putting on a play. They also reached out to the Rotary and Lions for help. We also thought we need to keep GPS references to sites.

The old newspaper called the Broadcaster out of Nashua had a Brookline column. That could be a place to research. Maybe it's on newspapers.com.

We discussed that Brookline had a lot of little granite operations in town. The remains of these are at several sites in town.

Ann and Loring have recently walked the town bounds via a request by the Selectboard. They created a report that we should look at.

Sid Hall may have some additional insight into town history. We should revisit asking him for help not only about publishing, but about other town history details we may not be aware of. He said in the past he would be willing to help. Keith will contact Sid to see if he would like to attend one of our upcoming meetings, preferably at the May meeting if he is available.

Keith mentioned that the 1939 town report had text about the 1938 hurricane including a warrant article. He said there was a directive from the state about cleaning up after the storm. Looking at town reports is a good place to find how weather events impacted the town. Donna mentioned the annual reports could be viewed online.

Scott will send out information about a NH Archives Workshop.

PUBLISHING

Eric showed us a couple of examples of writing style for the text he has researched. The text showed different ways of handling callouts and ways of quoting people. Hopefully this is something that Sid Hall can give us some guidance on when he attends a meeting.

Discussion of fact checking came up and how that would be handled. Donna stated it's important we each start now to maintain a careful log of all sources of information gathered over the coming months in our research of topics. These source logs will hopefully assist us later and make the job a little easier down the road when we do our fact checking for the book's publication.

Eric generated a first draft of a publication timeline and passed out copies at the meeting. He has also emailed it to us. We all need to review it prior to the next meeting. People should not wait till the next meeting to share any comments they have. Send them to the group as soon as you have any.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:45 Scott moved to adjourn the meeting. Vicki seconded. Passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday May 5, 2015 at 6:30pm in Safety Complex.

Submitted,
Bob Ottavi, Secretary