

# BROOKLINE TOWN HISTORY COMMITTEE

July 13, 2015

## MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Brookline Town History Committee was held on Monday, July 13, 2015 at 6:45pm in the Safety Complex Meeting Room.

Scott Grzyb presided.

Members of the Board Present: Nancy Reinbold  
Eric DiVirgilio  
Donna Corey  
Bob Ottavi, Secretary

Members of the Board Absent: Vicki Pope  
Dan Marcek  
Peter Cook  
Keith Thompson

Also in attendance: Rebecca Nelson  
Rick Nelson  
Sid Hall

### MINUTES

Nancy moved to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2015 meeting. Eric seconded. Passed unanimously.

### COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Rebecca Nelson has interest in joining the committee. She is interested in history and would like to help out in any area she can; research, interviews, etc. She has friends who may also be interested in helping out. An article in the Brookliner about the book project led her to attend this months meeting and offer her help. We will start the process of getting her approved by the Selectboard.

Eric thought Rebecca could initially help by going to Brookline businesses to find out something about their history: when started, what they do, any stories of interest, etc.

### EDITOR

At the Selectboard meeting, the proposal was made to have Sid Hall do the editorial work on the book project. The Selectboard agreed with the proposal and voted in the affirmative to have Sid do the work. This is a big help to have Sid on-board and help us on the crucial content generation phase and other phases of the project. We again thank Sid for wanting to be part of this important effort to preserve Brookline's history in written form.

One of the first things Sid wants to look into is what other towns have done. Of particular interest is the town of Mason's bicentennial book. The editor was well known author Elizabeth Orton Jones. For the next month, he will look at other town histories. Donna will send Sid the table of contents from other town histories, which she has scanned a while ago.

He is looking into generating an outline, and eventually a table of contents, based on the list of events we have done. Perhaps the book would cover subject areas, and then within these areas, chronological events would be covered.

Once the outline is determined, we will figure out who is doing what, what is missing, who can help to fill in all the voids, etc. We should reach outside the committee as well for any writing or research help.

Writing the initial content will have a short deadline. Sid would then give feedback to the writers. The writers would then have another timeline to make the changes. Sid would then take the text and make it readable in the style of the book. Sid will come up with style guidelines that we will all use. He doesn't people want to be too concerned about being a good writer. Do what you can and he will take it and turn it into the finished writing.

Some of the key points which Sid brought up:

- Everyone should write the way they feel comfortable. His job is to make it consistent and readable.
- It is good to continue to record any interviews we do. We can use these recordings to refer back for the book project and as content for the historical society.
- We may want to repeat some of Parker's content but bring the content up to date. Need to take it on a case by case basis. We can discuss this more in the future.
- Need to have a good table of contents since some people want to just focus on a particular subject from time to time, find one reference to someone or something, or just read it as a book from front to back.

Sid mentioned there was some paper in the past called "Build A Better Brookline". The issues may be at the library.

Scott thought that as we have book content ready, it is a good idea to put it into the Brookliner, the HB Journal and the town web site. This would help to get any input and insight someone may on Brookline history and also increase visibility into the book project.

#### STORIES MATTER

Scott is looking into a faster machine for running Stories Matter database software. We need to move off of Amazon hosting services by November.

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 8:00 Eric moved to adjourn the meeting. Nancy seconded. Passed unanimously.

#### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday August 10, 2015 at 6:30pm in the Safety Complex Meeting Room.

Submitted,  
Bob Ottavi, Secretary