

## Greensboro Historical Society Minutes

Tuesday, October 10, 2017

The annual meeting of the NEK historical societies took place in Greensboro, at Fellowship Hall.

There was a meet and greet over coffee and coffee cake.

Historical societies represented included:

Hardwick, Newport, Brownington, Derby, Charleston, Newport, Waterford, Peachum and Greensboro.

Willie opened the meeting with a welcome. She introduced Nancy and asked each group present to stand and have each member introduce themselves.

Willie then reviewed the agenda for the day.

The list of contacts that Leslie provided was circulated for updates.

The meeting began in darkness; the Hardwick Electric Department was upgrading transformers.

Nancy then introduced Eileen Corcoran, the Outreach Coordinator for the Vermont Historical Society, who was the featured speaker.

Shortly after Eileen introduced herself power was restored and she was able to use a microphone.

Eileen spoke at length about the work of the VHS and what they are working on currently.

There are 190 historical societies in the state. The VHS was established in 1838. One of their primary spaces in the Vermont Historical Museum, the Pavilion, in Montpelier. About 5,000 people visit the site per year. The current exhibit's theme is Freedom and Unity in Vermont.

Local historical societies can be displayed in the gallery. An exhibit will be displayed for 6 months. Chelsea is coming in February of 2018. They are accepting applications for future exhibits. Space is about 400 square feet.

The Vermont History Expo has been suspended at this time.

Beginning in November at the Jackie Caulder Gallery there will be a rotating exhibit that could potentially travel called, "Everywhere A Sign." This exhibit would be free or at a low cost to for local societies looking to host it.

The Vermont History Center is located in the old Spaulding Graded School building in Barre. They have been there for the past 10 years. Staff offices, the Leheay Library and all collections are housed there. The center is open to visitors who wish to learn about preservation techniques and storage practices.

"Freaks, Radicals and Hippies" is currently in the exhibit space until the end of December.

In January "The Art of Granite" will open. "Anything for Speed" and exhibit about auto racing in Vermont will open in the spring. They are currently collecting information.

On the third Thursday of each month there is public programming. This may be accessed on Facebook for a live broadcast of the event.

To reach a broader audience the VHS is working on packaging "Pub Trivia" for local societies to use, this program would come with swag for prizes.

Local societies and members are encouraged to check out the state web site. They are currently looking for speakers. Steve Perkins is the director of speakers.

The VHS produces a bi-weekly newsletter. Any articles should be submitted 2 weeks in advance of publication and may be sent to Eileen at [eileen.corcoran@VermontHistory.org](mailto:eileen.corcoran@VermontHistory.org).

Regarding education, Vermont History Day is in April. There is a school program with student participation and the VHS is looking for judges.

There is a program of history for home schoolers in the form of traveling history kits. Private non-profits receive funding from the state. The program is level funded but does have good government support.

As for how to promote Vermont Historical academic study, there is the Historical Journal, published twice a year, which includes research papers. There is the Hathaway award for scholarly study.

The Community Outreach Coordinator mostly deals with local societies. There is a league of local societies, programs are presented at the annual conference which this year will be held on October 28th in Lyndonville, at the college. The League does award exhibits and individuals for good work.

There is an online directory of local historical societies on the VHS database, arranged by county.

Note: GHS will check to see if we are registered.

There is a digital VT organization which is a platform to get collections online for archival records.

The Vermont state archives are located in Middlesex.

The Humanities Council has a speakers bureau.

At 11:30 there was a sharing of information between the local historical societies present. Each society representative was limited to 5 minutes per town. Town projects were diverse and the enthusiasm and dedication that each representative brought to the group was contagious.

Erika gave an overview of our recent activities for Greensboro.

Charleston's representative spoke about a cemetery reference book.

Wiz Dow, from Hardwick, talked about Getting Rid of the Junk.

Newport's 100th anniversary will be celebrated on July 4th in 2018.

Derby has exhibits on the web.

Orleans/Glover - Peggy Day spoke about the Old Stone House Museum, the book Slab City, and area logging.

Peachum's website is reflecting their work.

Waterford's Donna Heath has a blog and talked about the Rhubarb Cafe on the 3rd Saturday in June.

One interesting observation made by many in the group was that artifact donations are up as a result of the younger generation having no interest in antiques!

At 12:30 we broke for lunch.

June Bascom and Michael Hoffman, curators of the Old China Hands exhibit, addressed the group with an overview of the exhibit and accompanied the attendees to the GHS building to view the exhibit and answer any questions.

Next meeting:

Tuesday, November 14, 12:30 at the Greensboro Free Library. Bring a bagged lunch.