

Minutes of Norfolk Historical Commission
April 21, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Betsy Pyne. Those in attendance included Marcia Johnston, Barbara Bartholomew, Betsey Whitney, Gail Sullivan, Geri Tasker, and Thelma Ravinski.

Geri read the minutes from the March meeting. A motion was made to accept the minutes as read; this was seconded and passed.

Marcia's treasury report stated that the General Fund totals \$204.44 and the Gift Fund totals \$6116.92, which includes \$795 in book sales.

Self guided tour: Betsey Whitney met with Donna at the library; they have been working diligently on the walking tour pamphlet as well as the website. She has a question about the draft: there seems to be an error on the North Wrentham Parish illustration and caption. Barbara B was able to clarify the confusion.

Scholarship Committee: Barbara Bartholomew and Geri Tasker have volunteered to be on the scholarship committee; Betsy P recommended that Sandy P also join the group as she has experience with running a scholarship effort.

Possible duties of the committee will include:

- meet with the selectmen
- publicize the scholarship (include brief summary of qualifications, reason behind the scholarship even though the amount is small)
- review and evaluate the applicants
- set a timetable (recommendation to NHC for a vote at the May or June meeting)
- announce winner in June

Pondville Update:

- Pondville panel is ready to be sent to Panier for framing. Tri-County should give BW a copy of the file.
- Charlotte Pfischner wrote a paper about Dr. Jenks Norton (1759 – 1776), a colonial physican who is buried in Pondville Cemetery. She gave a copy of her paper to Betsey W who will save the document in the Pondville archives; a copy is attached for our archives. The Wrentham Library has the original journals of Dr. Jenks Norton.
- A letter from Mike Pond indicates that he has been able to trace his paternal ancestry back to 1630 due to a genealogy done by his great aunt; the family eventually settled in Pondville. Betsey W will save his letter in the Pondville archives.

Rockwood Road Historic District: Kathleen Broomer has been ill, and her report will be delayed until Sept.

Robert Ware Stone Visit: Betsy P is still trying to contact the property owners to set a new date for us to visit and evaluate the significance of the stone. John Martin used to own the property and will be invited.

150th Anniversary: The artist who painted the Tramp House has sent Betsy P an electronic copy that we can use like. Robin Wessman, head of the Cultural Council and the artist who painted the Tramp House, gave us permission to use ~~her~~ ^{his} image of the Tramp House on sweatshirts. Donna Jones brought a commemorative blanket and two paperweights from the 125th celebration.

Paperweight and Sweatshirts: Thelma will see if she can find the manufacturer of the original paperweight and sweatshirts from the 125th. We would like to find a company that will run them off in small batches. Sandra P may have a source; Betsy P will check with Bruce Simpson as Thelma thinks that he had tee shirts made.

Grange: Restoration is moving along; currently work is being done on the exterior. Funds are very limited at this point, and the kitchen renovation is on hold. Grange members are investigating how to improve acoustics. They are looking for paint donations, and perhaps have prisoners do the exterior painting. NHC suggested a CPC grant for the painting as this is a very historic building.

April 26th Fales Memorial Park Opening: Signs are up and wood chips are in place. Barbara is working on the trail map; there will be eight trail signs made of 6'x 12' metal in blue with white lettering. Barbara is trying to find Fales family members to come to the ceremony, but those contacted have other obligations that day. There have been no takers to carve the trails; we are looking for options. Kevin Roche is willing to sell his property and the dam to the town; Barbara put together a proposal for CPC

Bid for circle signs: The signs will measure 12" x 12" and NHC Historic Site will be listed under the name; the estimates for each are \$60.52; we are not sure if CPC will fund the signs.

Stove: The Restored Andville Display stove arrived in Walpole; the arrival and set up was filmed by the Norfolk Cable and the restorer did a demonstration. This will become a documentary on the local cable station.

Unmarked Graves Project: Funds for this project will be activated in July and work will begin in the Fall. Robert Perry of Hudson, NH will do the scanning in Norfolk and Pondville Cemeteries with the assistance of the DPW. The CPC has approved \$5000 and the estimate now totals \$2870.

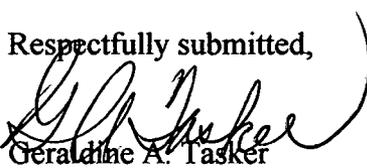
Open Space and Recreation Plan: Goals for the historic preservation of Norfolk and specific goals for role of NHC in the preservation of Norfolk have been laid out. See attached document for details.

Donna Nye → **Warelands:** Betsy P. has a complete file on the *Warelands*. We are concerned about the structure; the current occupant who was interested in buying and preserving the property is now moving out; the extreme winter this past season has taken its toll on the home. The October 1915 issue of *The House Beautiful* (swans on the cover) featured the *Warelands* and an article about Charlotte Barrell Ware (1862 – 1945) who lived there; she was college educated. Betsy emailed Mass Historical for additional information about the *Warelands* and was advised to call them.

File Donation: Greg Stahl donated a genealogy file on the Boyds.

A motion to adjourn at 9 p.m. was made, seconded and approved.

Respectfully submitted,


Geraldine A. Tasker
Recording Secretary