

WOODSTOCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING
October 20, 2009
Palmer Hall, 7:00 P.M.

Present: G.White, M. Pomeroy, A. Reed, D. Zimmerman, P. Papini, L. Chase, E. Brazeal, N. Gale, C. Wakely, M.E. Blake, E. Lachapelle, J. Hosmer

President Gail White called the meeting to order at 7:08 P.M.

Minutes of the September 17, 2009 meeting were approved. Motion to accept by N. Gale, P.Papini second. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report was presented by Earl Brazeal. Cheryl Wakely had several concerns; she asked for an explanation of the publications amounts. She said the newsletter amount of \$1700. and the publications amount of \$1097. are not planned to be spent. Earl listed items as "liabilities" which she regards as a "bill to be paid". Earl regards a liability as a budgeted expense whether or not it will be used. It may be time to reforecast the budget amounts for the rest of this year. Gail suggested that committee chairs look over the departmental amounts before the November meeting and give an update on where each department has spent or foresees spending. Motion to approve the Treasurer's report by M.E. Blake, P.Papini second. Motion carried.

Regarding the showing of movies in Palmer Hall, more details of the movie license indicate that we would not be able to charge admission to make a profit. Restrictions allow licensees to only charge enough to make back the licensing fee. If our goal is to bring people into Palmer Hall and encourage them to participate in the Society we would be better off paying the one-showing \$75. fee. Earl thinks we could do a summer series, but it is too late to start showings this year. The committee which is responsible for promoting the usage of Palmer Hall should include the licensing fee in the 2010 budget. Earl has been trying to get the Fire Marshall to attend the test of fire-retardent in the drapery material but he has received no response.

Building and Grounds:

Tony Reed has been frustrated in securing estimates for boiler repairs because the experts can't agree on exactly what is wrong. JV Mechanical is not interested in doing the work. Tasse submitted an estimate which included acid cleaning the coil or replacing the coil and replacing the galvanized pipes. Jeff Paige did not submit an estimate. Hartford boiler says there is a pinhole in the front boiler. Meanwhile Tony discovered that there is no low-water cut-off on the rear boiler which should have been installed per code when Tasse did the original installation. It is Tony's opinion that Tasse could do the repairs on the back burner for less than \$2000. Motion to authorize Tasse to do this work by A. Reed, E. Lachapelle second. Motion carried. Tony will also ask Tasse to drain the bathroom pipes in Palmer Hall.

Since the boundaries of our lot have been marked by Jeff Stefanik, Judy Hosmer asked if we should adjust the area mowed by DME? Earl will check into the amount charged for each mowing.

Finance:

Pat Papini reminded the Board of a meeting with Weiss & Hale: there are several suggested meeting times so she asked for responses by e-mail.

Programs:

Doug Zimmerman reported that there were about 30 people in attendance at the October 2nd presentation on the CCC. The group agreed that Doug has done a wonderful job on programs these last eight years. He is hoping to have a cordwainer speak at the annual meeting.

Publications:

Cheryl Wakely expects to have the pictorial history book “camera-ready” by the end of August 2010; with the sections going to the designer by April first. At this time the chapters are about 75% complete as far as choosing the photos and work on the text will be done during the winter. It is time to send a check for the deposit to Donning Publishers.

Nominating:

It is time to form the committee with two people from the general membership to serve along with the chair.

New Business:

Gail White reported that she is working on a grant for the Chamberlain Mill which caused her to take a close look at the “income” in our budget. We are withdrawing about \$30,000. from our capital each year for operating expenses which only gives us five more years to operate! The Roseland lease is back with more suggested changes but it will be done and paid by the end of the year. Fundraising has brought in about \$10,000. per year with \$2,000. from membership and \$2,000. from rent. We must generate much more income to carry out our mission. There are no grants given out for operating expenses so we need a business plan if we want to continue beyond five years. The pressure of concentrating on fundraising may drive people away. Should we hire a professional fundraiser for a one-time amount? Pat Papini suggested consulting the small business department at QVCC or Nichols College. The Society has been given donations to preserve Woodstock history and we as a board must seriously find a way to cover annual expenses. The Finance Committee should be made up of the business people in our town such as Dan Atwood, Bernie Phaneuf , Cy Harvey, or Margaret Bates. Please let Gail know of other names. Regarding a grant for capital improvements, we don’t qualify this year. We need to do some research and go for a big grant next year. Funders will want to see a ten-year plan for using the building.

Motion to adjourn by A. Reed, D. Zimmerman second. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Judith T. Hosmer
Recording Secretary