

WOODSTOCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING
November 20, 2009
Palmer Hall, 4:30 P.M.

Present: G. White, E. Lachapelle, L. Chase, J. Hosmer, P. Papini, A. Reed, M.E. Blake,
E. Brazeal, M. Pomeroy

Absent: D. Zimmerman, C. Wakely, N. Gale

Guest: B. Brazeal

President Gail White called the meeting to order at 4:40 P.M.

Minutes of the October 20, 2009 meeting were reviewed and a correction was made by E. Brazeal who asked to amend the cost of the license for a one-time movie showing which was originally thought to be \$75. Motion to approve amended minutes by P. Papini, M.E. Blake second. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report was presented by E. Brazeal. He questioned an automatic deduction from the gift shop checking account labeled "American Express collection". Charge accounts were supposedly closed last February. J. Hosmer agreed to look into this matter. Earl received a copy of a letter from the Woodstock Tercentenary Committee dated June 21, 1991 regarding the balance in the Tercentenary Fund. The principal was to be retained and only the interest income spent by WHS. Expenditures from the principal must be approved by the Woodstock Board of Selectman. Since the WHS misinterpreted this letter, the Board should reinstate the funds to the original balance of \$14,285.00. E. Lachapelle made a motion to authorize the Treasurer to transfer funds from the Citizen's Freedom Savings and the Gift Shop checking account sufficient to restore the Tercentenary Fund. P. Papini second. Motion carried. Earl announced that a Staples tax exempt card is ready for use and will be kept under the care of E. Lachapelle. After an explanation of the Treasurer's report, motion to accept was made by M.E. Blake, M. Pomeroy second. Report accepted unanimously.

Finance Committee Chair P. Papini reported on their October 29th meeting and the meeting with Jim Hale of Weiss & Hale. The account with Weiss & Hale is 60% stocks and 40% bonds. We have done very well with this investment. G. White will confirm with Jim Hale that the 60/40 balance is proper and that nothing further needs to be done. The Finance Committee also discussed the need to change the WHS by-laws to accommodate the suggested panel of financial advisors. Also relating to finance, Beverly Brazeal brought mailing labels printed with the names of donors in the recent past and donors who haven't yet contributed this year for use on the year-end campaign letters. Bev will send copies of past letters to Pat Papini. Pat and Gail White will work on this year's version.

Gail White reported on C. Wakely's publication presentation to the Woodstock Board of Selectmen. Cheryl requested \$20,000. for the publication of the pictorial history and for related activities such as the exhibit and programs. The Board rejected the request because they are on a zero budget but they were enthusiastic and suggested making a request to the Woodstock Board of Finance for next fiscal year. The Finance Committee must remember that the publisher's bill will come due in February 2011. E. Brazeal and M. Pomeroy showed sample brochures for a fund appeal. The members of the board should be collecting similar brochures as models for the future.

The Building and Grounds report was given by A. Reed. Regarding the rear furnace: Tasse's original estimate was \$1658. They replaced the galvanized pipes with PEX and then had to by-pass the cold water system and put in PEX (not in original estimate). There were more problems when test-run; blew out one radiator and found a crack in another – JV didn't drain them properly. There was water damage in Elaine's office but the vault is OK. Tony recommended replacing the radiators with regular baseboard fins in Elaine's office. On the Palmer Hall furnace it is possible that the leak is only in the tankless coil which is not used anyway. The water can't be turned off to Palmer Hall until the two building systems are separated. Tasse proposes separating the systems and winterizing the Palmer Hall section. Motion made by E. Lachapelle to run a new line to separate the water systems and put in two radiator patches of high-output baseboard with valves to regulate them, P. Papini second. Motion carried. Meanwhile a portion of the ceiling plaster in Palmer Hall has fallen. G. White has arranged for a plasterer to check the whole section for stabilization and to patch the current hole. Motion was made by A. Reed to authorize the President to get the best deal on plaster repair and stabilization, E. Lachapelle second. Motion carried. Soldering the pipes during the boiler repairs set off the alarm system and it won't reprogram. A call is in to the alarm company. The Hartford Boiler recommendations have been done. Tony has been checking the cistern and suggests installing a second drain closer to the floor which could then be connected into the existing floor drain. The Top of the Hill Gang has worked on the exterior of the hallway. They scraped away the dirt and plants then replaced some trim and repainted the whole exterior wall. We should recognize the work of the Gang at the annual meeting; decision on gifts to be made at the December meeting.

Program Chair D. Zimmerman was absent but sent a report that he had secured Sunday afternoon February 7, 2009 for the WHS Annual Meeting at East Woodstock Congregational Church.

Under Old Business Gail reported that there were more suggested changes to verbiage in the lease but it will be finalized before the end of the year. A spinning wheel donation will be coming from Texas with receipt of the crate assisted by Orange Art. Earl Brazeal has placed six experimental drapes in Palmer Hall for an echo sound trial. Securing a license for movies will be postponed until spring because of the ceiling situation. The website is in place but Earl needs input from individuals for postings. Board members should add the WHS e-mail to all their reports. Earl has done some technical updates to our computer equipment. Judith Gries has donated a 16mm projector to the Society.

The next meeting will be Wednesday December 16th at 7:00 P.M.

Motion to adjourn by M.E. Blake, M. Pomeroy second. Meeting adjourned at 7:16 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Judith T. Hosmer
Recording secretary