

The Methuen Historical Society, Inc.

Board of Directors

July 19, 2018

Methuen, Massachusetts

In Attendance: Joy Karpowicz, Tom Lussier, Maureen Pollard, Sharon Pollard, Beverly Brown, Denis Webster-Greene, John Hadley, Ralph Belmonte Absent: Paul Webster-Greene, Joe Bella, Charlie Farrington, Katherine Robinson

Secretary's Report: Motion was made and seconded, with correction of adding Katherine Robinson to the attendance, to accept the Secretary's report of June 21, 2018. Voted and approved.

President's Report: Denis opened the meeting at 7:00 pm. Reported that the scholarship recipient will be given her scholarship on Tuesday 7/24 at 3:30 with Denis and Tom present.

Treasurer's Report: Reports distributed for activity up to and as of June 30, 2018. Voted and approved. Tom noted that Enterprise Bank made a corporate donation of \$500.

Old Business

Greycourt Restoration - John has contacted a source in reference to an artisan for restoration work and will get the estimates needed to be submitted to the state for review.

Greycourt Security - Recent acts of vandalism and amount of traffic flow at Greycourt has become alarming. Sharon & Tom spoke with policy chief and increase patrols are now taking place. There is roof damage from the slates being out of place, one of the railings have dropped and there is copper missing from the roofs. A number of suggestions were made to help resolve the vandalism. Surveillance signs will be purchased to be used as a deterrent. The upper dirt pathway should be blocked to prevent travel. The second gate will be locked at night. Board will look into the availability of balusters, granite or boulders to be used on the grassy side of the gate to prevent cars from travelling around the gate.

Building and Grounds -

Irrigation -Denis has spoken to Matthew's Irrigation and it was recommended that the back flow pump be fixed and repair the three zones done. Estimate is \$1,525. Discussion was made on how to proceed and general consensus was to do the job complete.

Turret Windows- Sharon will schedule the work for late September.

Attic & Basement Cleanup -Prior to that repair the attic will need to be cleaned out and it was determined to do the basement as well. Maureen will check with the Scout for a date.

Gate House Garden - The garden has been planted and the wall has been cleared. John said the Sumac needs to be removed from the wall and will look into getting the tree taken down. Discussion as held the best way to use the sprinkler system versus the drip system. Both will be reviewed with the Irrigation company. John and Denis will do thanks you notes to Home Depot recognizing the donations.

Museum Projects -

Methuen School Projects - Joy provided an update on the progress of the project. The committee is on schedule for a September opening date.

Cultural Council Project - An introduction of the museum video is being put together for the screen at the visitor center .

Castle Fund Application - Funding will be used for education packets for teachers , map outlining historical locations in Methuen and other educational materials.

Fundraising - The dinner party fundraiser will be done in the Spring possibly March. The raffle will be done with a kick off at the Annual meeting and pulled at a Holiday Open House.

New Business -

Committee for Annual Meeting in Fall - The Annual meeting will be held Wednesday September 25th from 6:30-8:30, meeting starting at 7:00. The Methuen Public School exhibit will debut, the Preservation Awards will be presented and the raffle fundraiser will be introduced. Coffee and pastries will be served.

Holiday Open House - A motion to have a Holiday open house was made and seconded. Voted and approved. The target date is the second or third week of December. Further plans will be discussed at the next meeting.

Concerns for document preservation - Sharon will contact New England Preservation on the ability to digitize documents. The board will look into purchasing plastic containers to hold paper documents.

Festival Of Trees - Sharon provided an update on the Chase that will be coming up on September 8th. A scavenger type race will be held by the Festival of Trees starting at 4 pm and send racers to all points of Methuen. More information will be forthcoming.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn at 8:23 p.m. Voted and approved.

Next meeting of the Methuen Historical Society will be held on Thursday August 16, 2018.

Meeting will be at the Gatehouse.

Respectfully submitted,

Joy Karpowicz

Secretary, Methuen Historical Society