

Bethel Historical Society

August 1, 2005

Historical Society Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order by Nick Nikolaidis at 7:00 pm at the Bethel Public Library.

Members in attendance:

Nick Nikolaidis, Rosella Leonard, Don Hyde, Don Brown, David Aiken, George and Janet Burnham, Martine and Bill Ruthenburg, Jennifer Ankner-Edelstein, and Bill Green.

The meeting began with pictures provided by Dave Aiken of the Curtain Restoration Project at the Town Hall. Many reviewed and admired the wonderful photos documenting the work and those involved. After all had seen the pictures, they were given to Nick Nikolaidis and George Burnham. George was actually in many of the pictures.

Next, a review of the minutes of the previous meeting was read by Secretary Leonard. It was asked that copies of the previous meeting's minutes be distributed to the attending members before the start of every meeting in the future. In this way the members could refresh their memories to the past issues and give updates on their individual projects. It would also be easier to remember past issues and ensure that they would be addressed properly and not forgotten. Secretary Leonard agreed.

Old Business:

Don Hyde has been trying to contact Mary Pavone regarding the Acquisition Book. He has left numerous messages that have yet to be returned by her. Don will continue to try to contact her and is hopeful he will have something to report at the next meeting.

Don Brown's granddaughter has been scanning the old photos onto a disc as previously discussed at the last meeting. She has been scanning them one file at a time. The process is moving along nicely. As she scans the pictures she is also including any information written on the back of the pictures for future reference. Jennifer has also contacted the Vermont Historical Society regarding inventory software. She was directed to the Director of Art who has yet to return her messages.

September 10<sup>th</sup> Bethel Street Festival parade. It was agreed by a majority that we would not do a float this year, perhaps next. There is just not enough time or man/woman power to do one. Don Hyde and Don Brown inquired about setting up a tent before the parade for our Historical Society Booth. Nick agreed along with many others to do this rather than share one with the BBA. Don and Don would set up the tent and the house

from the Expo Exhibit then the other members would set up the other items desired to be displayed.

October 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. This meeting will be held at the East Bethel Octagon at 7:00pm. A short business meeting will be held before the presentation. Don and Don will give the presentation and Nick will provide the refreshments afterwards.

Next years Expo Theme:

Bill Green thought it would be a fabulous idea to include the graded school here in town in our Expo Theme/Exhibit next year. It would be a great learning experience for them and get them involved and perhaps interested in the history of our area. He also added perhaps including them in an inventory of the historical items, locations, events, and people in our community. Bill had talked to the principle, Bill Elberty, about this idea and was given a lot of positive feedback from him. Hopefully we will pursue this in the near future. Janet also added including a dinner theatre with the concept to also get the interest of the Drama Clubs in the area.

Bill Green also spoke about his Sunday afternoon at our Historical Museum. He had expected a slow afternoon and had advised me to bring a book. We were both pleasantly surprised by the number of people who came to view our exhibits and ask questions. It was felt by both Bill and myself that if a list of the items there and any information about them was easily available to the people working the museum, any questions asked could be addressed more easily. A lady by the name of Mrs. Joyce Pratt had been told that her grandmother, Abby Chamberlain Reid, had donated a quilt to the museum and she would like to see it. We could unfortunately not help her at that time. I took her information and told her I would try to find out as much as I could and get back to her as soon as possible. Mrs. Pratt was very appreciative. I will try to contact Mary Pavone as soon as possible. This brought up the subject of the Acquisition Book again. Bill Green remembers several years ago, Sandy Levesque and Mary Pavone had organized a group of people from around the state to come, label, and organize the inventory in the museum. The objects were ID'ed, numbered or labeled, and a list was made. There were somewhere in the area of 106 items cataloged that day in a 2 ½ to 3 hour period. Each person paid \$15.00 to \$20.00 to participate in the cataloging experience. He felt very sure that either Mary or Sandy must still have the notes.

New Business:

At this time Don Hyde made an announcement that he was resigning his presidency of the Historical Society to Nick Nikolaidis. Due to the expansion of the company he works for, GW Plastics, has felt he would not have the time and/or energy to carry out the duties of president in the proper capacity, the way they should be done. He was handing over his duties and title to Nick and was very confident that Nick's leadership abilities would carry us in the proper direction that this Society needs to go and grow in the future. Don did say he would stay on as a member of the Bethel Historical Society and continue to carry out his obligations in previously started projects, ex. talking to Lang regarding the space where Louies Used Furniture now resides; talking to Mr. Case regarding the Society's By-Laws, and contacting Mary about the Acquisition Book. Don also wants

the Society to make a decision about the newspapers in his barn that came from Richard Edmunds. They still smell extremely bad and do not appear to be getting any better. Most of these are already on microfilm at the Herald office in Randolph. He will store them until October but no longer. A decision will be made at the next meeting.

A short discussion about a joint meeting with the Bethel Rotary like last year. Perhaps a dinner and speaker about the Civil War. Nick will be looking into this.

The meeting was called to a close. All agreed and retired to look at the picture file and investigate the items in the basement of the library.

Submitted by  
Rose Leonard  
Secretary