

MEETING MINUTES

NHHS members and friends gathered at the home of Walter Blasberg on June 25, 2013 for the annual meeting of the society. Walter was thanked for his hospitality and willingness to host the annual meeting. Eileen Mitchell and Tracy Giroux called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. A motion was made, seconded and agreed to waive the reading of last year's minutes.

Bob Ayers recognized six members of the society that have passed away over the last year:

Winston Way, better known as Mr. History passed away in February of this year.

Bob Busch was a doer when it came to his community; he loved North Hero, was a gifted craftsman with wood and supported the library.

Dorothy Smith was an active member and enjoyed working on the gardens.

Bill Bronk was a doctor who resided in North Hero during the summer months, and years ago hosted an annual meeting.

Lloyd O'Brien passed away in March at the age of 94 and was a generous supporter.

William Rasmussen passed away in May, 2012, he was a generous member and volunteer of the North Hero Fire Department.

A moment of silence was observed for these special people.

Eileen Mitchell gave the treasurer's report for the NH Community Hall; \$26,000.00 was received from the Vermont Community Foundation via the Courtney Fisher Fund. This money is being used to construct the kitchen in the basement of the Hall. The walls, floor and lighting have been completed. We now need to acquire the appliances and this will be worked on this summer. We also received a \$6,600.00 Culture Facility Grant written by Jane Lendway and Tracy Giroux. These monies paid for the air conditioning and finishing the insulation in the lobby ceiling space. The operating expenses for the Hall were \$18,000.00 and rental revenues were \$23,000.00 for the year. We would like to thank Jane Lendway and Ann Denher for the beautiful planters at the Hall that they plant and maintain. We would also like to thank Colleen Hobb for her plant donation and Matt Spear for his mulch donation. We are grateful to all of these people.

Our website is up and was created by Andy Julow (Julow Computing); go online at northherohistoricalsociety.com and check it out. As we go forward there will be more information

added and pictures.

Tracy Giroux recognized Happy Dattilio, secretary; Linda Norris, treasurer; and Marie Giroux and David Desualtels for maintaining the books and paperwork for the NH Community Hall and the Society.

Recognition – presented by Tracy Giroux

“We certainly want to extend our appreciation to Eileen and Rich for coordinating all the efforts at the Hall this past year. It is an important job and they work hard to secure rentals and make sure that all clients are happy. The word is getting out and with each event we move closer to making the Hall venue financially stable. We are deeply appreciative to Rich and Eileen. Thank you.”

“This year, as well, we would like to recognize the efforts of Dwayne Cormier and his company, DC Energy Innovations. Over the last two years, Dwayne and his wife Pam Cuneo have raised a significant amount of money through their dance programs. They have generously donated the proceeds to the Restoration Project. In fact, there is another dance event at the Hall this Saturday that Dwayne and Pam have coordinated. In addition, over the past few years Dwayne has secured thousands of dollars in equipment for the Community Hall. He has been successful in purchasing theater lighting complete with disco ball, sound, microphones, and many other things that we need to make the Hall a more desirable venue. We would like to publicly thank Dwayne for his time, energy (literally) and efforts. Thank you Dwayne.”

The “Hookenspoon” Updates

The Treasurer reports we have two CD’s at \$5,000.00 each, \$25,000.00 in a Money Market account and \$2,438.00 in the checkbook. The “Hookenspoon” operates and relies on membership donations. The house and barn have been cleaned and are ready to welcome visitors beginning July 6th and continue through Labor Day weekend. Thank you to the cleaning crew of Eileen Mitchell, Tracy Giroux, Pam Strohmeier, Happy Dattilio and K2 Raacke. The gardens were cleaned up and weeded earlier in the month by Eileen Mitchell, Leslie Ward and Happy Dattilio. We are thankful and grateful to Butch Soule and Richard Mitchell for lawn mowing; we could use another person to help out with the mowing.

The NHHS membership letter has gone out and dues monies are coming in. We are grateful for these monies as it’s the only source of income and we are in need of two roofs. We’re also looking for someone with carpenter skills to put shelves in an upstairs closet to be used to keep books.

Thank you also to the “Hookenspoon” hosts that are already scheduled for this season. However, we are short in a few time slots, if you can host please get in touch with Tracy.

Bob Ayers was instrumental in bringing the program “Vermont Road Show: Early Automobile Travel In Vermont” to the North Hero Community Hall on Wednesday, August 14, 2013 at 7:00 PM. Wendell Noble and Charlie Thompson will give a relaxed presentation that will be a little over an hour long. Come early as Wendell is bringing his antique car and anyone else with an antique car is welcomed to bring it that evening as well.

Another postcard program for this summer has evolved thanks to members Doug Tudhope and Ron Fierstein. Ron and Doug will present a program on July 31, 2013 at 7:00PM at the Community Hall. Ron has amassed a collection of over 3000 Grand Isle County postcards. He has categorized and scanned each one and will present the Society with the digital form of these cards for their use. Doug will offer narration for the coming program which will feature several North Hero images.

Jim Kilbride made a motion to re-elect Co-Presidents Eileen Mitchell and Tracy Giroux, Secretary Happy Dattilio and Treasurer Linda Norris. The motion was seconded.

Jim Kilbride then made a motion to re-elect trustees Dwayne Cormier, Walter Blasberg and Eileen Mitchell. The motion was seconded.

Walter Blasberg , who purchased his home in 2004 and had it totally renovated gave a brief history. His brick home was owned by the Dodds family and built in 1843, having first resided in a log cabin. His property also includes an old barn built around 1850. The corn crib that used to be there was dismantled and reconstructed and now resides in Charlotte.

Walter contacted and arranged for Elliott Lothrop of Heritage Builders out of Huntington to come speak to us this evening. Elliott has been working on the Homer Knight barn renovation having been hired by Ann August. He described this as a bank barn and one of the features are the gun stock timbers that were hand hewn. Elliott described Walter’s barn as a 30x40 English Threshing Barn with three bays. It has scribe ruled timbers, 1800 square rule framing, gun stock joint, purlins roof, a stone foundation and is made of white oak. Throughout his presentation several attendees including two Dodds relatives shared stories of long ago years that spoke of the time, people and North Hero. After the meeting ended Elliott took people out to tour the barn where he could point out features and describe them.

Mary Jane Healy also spoke of the property and how the lots were numbered and passed down. Mary Jane’s book “Deeds and Misdeeds” is available by contacting her. We appreciate Mary Jane’s continued passion of researching North Hero history.

Judy Rooney brought a wonderful slate etching of the Methodist church done in June 1989 that was donated by David and Summer Ladd to the fire department flea market and then donated to the Society by the NHVFD Women’s Auxiliary. It will be a nice addition to the North Hero Methodist Church

history and artifacts collected by Louis Dorwaldt.

The annual meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Happy Dattilio, Secretary