

Minutes of the Loudon Historical Society
August 1, 2007

Present: Bob Ordway, Dick Malfait, Melanie Kiley, Cyndi Babonis, Linda Hunton, Ron Lane, Roy Merrill, Barbara Cameron, Judy Jamilkowski, Barbara Sullivan, Henry Frost, Betty Frost, Liz Jones, Wesley Jones, Roger Dow.

At the start of the meeting, Bob welcomed all of the new attendees. It was great to have so many people interested in being a part of our mission to keep Loudon's history alive!

The nominating committee reported that they will meet in the coming week to identify those people who are interested in becoming officers and present a list of names at the next meeting. The slate of officers will include a President, a Vice-President, a Treasurer, two Secretaries (who will share the position) and a Curator.

Barbara Cameron asked how the Historical Society was organized and what responsibilities were included in these positions. Bob explained that the Historical Society is not a non-profit organization, but rather an arm of the town, meaning that the town owns it. There is a line item in the budget for the Historical Society (currently \$500.00 per year.) We try to keep money set aside in case any artifacts become available for purchase. We recently purchased a digital camera and a voice recorder for our use with oral histories and town photographs. He also passed around a copy of the constitution which lists the positions within the organization. Henry Frost commented that he didn't feel job descriptions were necessary, since they are in the by-laws. Bob will get more copies of the constitution and by-laws made for the next meeting so we can all have one. Bob also reminded us that our by-laws call for a Board of Directors. This board meets between regular meetings. He stated that he would be interested in being on that board. Dick also said he would be interested. Both men felt that Peter Bartlett would be interested also.

Ron Lane suggested that Linda Hunton and Cyndi Babonis be considered for the dual secretary position, as they have been doing many of those tasks already. Liz Jones expressed an interest in taking on the Curator position. She has skills as an office manager which could be helpful in this position and her husband may be able to help out with computer-related tasks. Wes

Jones expressed that he may also be interested in this position at a later date. Several others offered to help Liz with projects as needed. Melanie is interested in continuing as Treasurer. We will put another notice in the Ledger to see if anyone else in town is interested in holding an office.

Henry offered to correspond with Martha Cheney, who is the writer for the Concord Monitor's Town Crier section, and make sure our meetings are announced in the paper.

Henry stated that there may be some items donated to us in the near future. Dick stated that he knows someone who has a painting of the Batchelder farm from the 60's. Wes felt that we should put more information into the Ledger about new acquisitions. Liz suggested that we put a photo of an item from the museum into the Ledger each month with a story to go along with it.

Wes stated that he is a member of the Chichester Historical Society and that they have a very good program there and publish a newsletter. Henry suggested that we visit other societies to see what kinds of projects they do and how they get people involved. Cyndi said that she has an article taken from a website that addresses how to get a society going. Wes suggested that she bring copies of the article to the next meeting to share. Linda suggested changing the exhibits now and then to keep things fresh so that people have a reason to revisit the museum. Henry asked if we have insurance on our artifacts. Bob replied that they are insured through the town's insurance. Ron thought it would be a good idea to do a digital inventory and store it.

Barbara asked if there was a good way to get our youth involved in the Historical Society. She feels it is very important to reach the young people in the community. Everyone agreed that it is very important and some suggestions made were: boy scouts looking for Eagle projects, high school seniors looking for senior projects, youths looking for community service, elementary school visits (both in the classroom and at the museum), and after school history clubs.

Several other possibilities for projects were discussed. Ron talked about a building he knows of in town that may have been a school building. He is trying to figure out if it was or not. If it was, we may want to do something with it in the future. Bob talked about the possibility of rebuilding the first

house in Loudon, which is in pieces at the moment. Wes suggested we make a list of ideas for future projects. He felt that if we could get some specific projects going, this would draw more people in who are interested in helping out. Bob suggested that we begin a trust fund to help pay for projects.

Linda felt that oral histories should be a priority because we need to collect people's stories before they are lost. Everyone seemed to agree on this. Cyndi suggested that it would be nice to have an outline to follow so that when the interviews are put on tape or on a computer, they would all be done in the same order, thereby making it easier to access a certain piece of information. Liz suggested we may want to get some sort of release form to get permission to use the information from interviews in other ways, such as books.

Bob talked about doing group interviews, where a group of people sit down and have a conversation about their memories of Loudon. The digital recorder can record up to four people on different channels, so we would get information from all four as they reminisce. Ron asked if we keep track of the Citizens of the Year. Bob responded that we have pictures and write-ups on all of them.

Our next meeting will focus on oral histories. We need to come up with names of people we would like to interview. Wes said that he has completed several oral histories, and would be willing to share his knowledge of and experience in doing oral histories with us.

We closed the meeting with Wes Jones showing us an old log caliber that was given to him by Guy Deering. It bears the initials J S Lake. He is donating it to the Historical Society. Thank you, Wes!

Our next meeting will be **Wednesday, September 12, 2007, at 7:00 pm** at the Historical Society Building. (This was changed from the original date of September 5, due to the fact that several people were unable to make it that week.) Ruth (Sanborn) King will be attending our next meeting. She has written a book about the Sanborn mill that she will share with us. We look forward to it and hope that many others will join us!

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Hunton

