

# Dummerston Historical Society

## Annual/Quarterly Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2025 2:00 pm

School House

Sara Ryan, Secretary (standing in for the President, who was unable to attend) welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 2:06. The meeting was attended by about 30 individuals. She gave a recap of all that had taken place in the building over the previous year.

**Building Maintenance that happened in 2024 included:** New locks installed, heat pumps working well, painting of the doors, removal of ewes either side of front door, upkeep of ramp.

### **Donations received included:**

- The Flag donated by the McDermets has a beautiful new box that the Board commissioned Dennis Mews to build
- Raney Farm picture of the history of sugaring (donor anonymous)
- Brook Farm Sign
- Antique Scythe
- Folk Art Map
- Painting of Falk property by Rodrica Tilley
- A very generous \$1,000 donation

Another thank you to the town for the ARPA funds that we received and put to good use as you will hear in the treasurer's report.

### **Exhibits, Presentations and displays include:**

- **Two tool exhibits which were well received**
- **Presentation:** Waterways of Dummerston-Memories of Ponds, Rivers and Streams
- **Presentation and Exhibit: Clyde Johnsons-** Veterinary medicine in Dummerston
- **Presentation: Bill Schmidt's** presentation Life at Elysian Hills,
- **Presentation: Joe Cook:** Bicycle Adventures
- **Artists-**Rodrica Tilley paintings, Roger Turner photographs, Connie Evans multiple media, Chuck Fish photography
- **A display that included:** Dummerston Maps, Civil War enlistment documents, Dora Gray/Virkstis tribute, unidentified photos, PTA school exhibit (PTA scrapbooks, early classroom books, sugaring photo, sugaring books, yokes, buckets. I'm sure I've forgotten something .

### **Ongoing projects include:**

- We're open 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday every month, occasionally changed due to holidays and weather please check the website for specifics. As always, one can make an appointment for a private visit.

- Documentation of Barns in Dummerston: Chuck, Paul, Jody and John. If you have any please get in touch.
- Oral history recordings- Sara and Julie Johnson-McGrath. If you would like to be interviewed please let us know. Today's stories are being recorded to add to this oral history record.
- Looking for new members of the Society as well as volunteers and Board Members
- Facebook is up and running
- Website is being kept current
- Scanning of old photos
- Recording inventory for online use

Sara, as Secretary, read the minutes from the January 21, 2024 meeting. An inquiry was made regarding the October Quarterly minutes and when said minutes would be shared. This was noted and will be investigated and a resolution to the issue will be addressed.

Ruth, as Treasurer, gave a brief financial report. She shared that at the beginning of 2025 our operating account has more than \$15,000 and our Capital account has more than \$6,000. Over the last three years our average income has been almost \$7,000 and our average expenses close to \$5,000. Our major yearly expenses are property insurance, electricity and fuel, snow removal, postage and PO box rental. This past year a big expense was the printing of new t-shirts and hats for our fundraising efforts. Ruth shared our proposed budget including income of \$5,800 and that matches our predicted expenses. Our fiscal year is the calendar year. A question was asked about the Capital fund and are we increasing it? Our goal has been to keep at least \$10,000 in our capital fund. We actually have more than \$10,000 but they are located in different accounts. Funds have not been moved from operating account to a capital fund because doing so would restrict the access to the funds. We have more flexibility to utilize the funds where they are currently. This is a question that is in ongoing discussion within the Board. Suggestion was made to work to reach \$10,000 in capital fund. A consideration here is on interest rates. Should we invest in a high interest account? CDs are now at 5%; should we investigate? Copies of the proposed budget were offered to the members.

Gail gave a sales report. She shared the new t-shirts and hats that have been added to our fundraising inventory. A suggestion was made that we have children's sizes.

Jody shared that we have sold calendars for 14 years. We ordered more this year and they all sold. Sheila Pinkney is taking the lead this year working with Jody. They would love submissions of photos of locations in Dummerston. Photos must be horizontal with no identifiable individuals.

Gail added another thank you to the selectboard, who allotted us \$27,000 from the ARPA funds to help us with caring for this building. There is a complete summary report of the town's ARPA fund distribution in the town report.

Introduction of slate of officers: Gail shared that DHS bylaws provide for a maximum of 9 Board members (4 officers and 5 Directors). Officers are elected annually except for the Treasurer which is a 3 year term. Currently we have 3 Directors.

Gail introduced the slate of officers up for election.

## **Officers & Directors for 2025**

### Officers (1 year term):

- President - Muriel Taylor - Term expires January 2026
- Vice President - Chuck Fish - Term expires January 2026
- Secretary - Sara Ryan - Term expires January 2026

### Continuing Positions:

- Treasurer (3 year term) - Ruth Hoffman - Term expires January 2026
- Directors (3 year term):
  - Gail Sorenson - Term expires January 2026
  - Jody Normandeau - Term expires January 2027
  - John Pinkney - Term expires January 2027
  - (There are currently 2 vacancies)

Gail asked if any of the members would like to add their name to the directors being voted on today. There was no response.

Paul Normandeau moved that we accept the slate of officers as presented. Sallie May seconded. It was confirmed that there was a quorum present. Sara called for a vote. The vote was unanimously approved with no opposition and the slate of officers was elected for another year.

Gail shared that if any member reconsiders and would like to join the Board they should contact the Board. The Board can appoint individuals to serve until the next election.

Jody shared that there are plenty of jobs to be done without serving on the Board. We welcome all volunteers.

Sara moved that, with no other business to be discussed at the meeting, we adjourn the meeting. Jody seconded and a vote was taken. It was unanimously approved to end the meeting.

*Minutes submitted by Sara Ryan, Secretary*