

Berlin Historical Society Meeting Minutes of January 26, 2010

Present were President Norb Rhinerson, Treasurer Mary Wells, Walter Wells and Cheryl Poor.

The meeting was abbreviated because of a lack of a quorum, 5 members including an officer are required to be present in order to conduct any business.

Minutes of December 15, 2009 were not read

Treasurer Mary Wells presented a financial report as of January 20. The total of all funds was \$47,893.90.

The Election of Officers for this calendar year will be delayed until the February Meeting.

The slate will be

Norb Rhinerson – President

Vice President We need a candidate.

Richard Turner – Secretary

Mary Wells – Treasurer

Tom Williams – Assistant Treasurer

Directors – Walter Wells, Sally Schober, Elene Sartell – Directors Don't know who is up for reelection. Directors have staggered 3 year terms. This same slate has been elected over the last 2 years except for the vice president and the assistant treasurer.

There was some discussion as to whether we should discontinue meeting during the winter. We could not make a decision on that and that discussion will be carried over to next month.

Presidents Report

General

You may have noticed but we have some new floor mats and a new office chair.

Berlin Elementary School History and its 40th anniversary

Substantial differences of opinions as to where the new school was to be located and it took several years for that to be straightened out.

Berlin Community Club History

This club existed from 1955 to 1963. Furnished Berlins first Fire Truck. Operated a swimming pool on Comstock Road (Richard thought if we took a close look we might see some of the dam that they built to create the pool)

Childs and Hobart Ancestry

This was written by Rev. James Hobart Childs with interesting Berlin stories; Pastor Rufus Childs, his father, served the Berlin Congregational Church from 1855 to 1861. His wife was Pamela Perrin Hobart was the 6th child of Reverend James Hobart. They had met at the Montpelier Academy and were married in 1844 in Berlin. Prior to serving here Pastor Childs was the pastor at Gilmanton Iron Works in New Hampshire. Truman Perrin brought the family here from Gilmanton in 1855 by horse and wagon a distance of 100 miles.

James Hobart Childs was 8 ½ when they moved to Berlin and in one section talks about climbing out of the Bell Tower at the Berlin Corner School and crawling across the roof.

This was sent to us by Priscilla Wilson who wrote the Lizzie Hobart Book, she said her son was doing some research on the internet and found this 68 page work.. She wanted us to know that

she will be at the Kellogg Hubbard Library on March 22, the day before our March meeting for a book signing.

Update on the “Cottage”

Jim Sumner sent us an e mail about Amelia Earharts connection to the “Cottage” Amelia apparently had a strong working relationship with Porter Adams, mostly over the development of Navigational Systems where Porter Adams was a pioneer. Amelia was at Porters Wedding in Washington DC. Porter was president of Norwich. There is still a big question as to whether Amelia visited the Cottage. I picked up a book on Amelia that is a good reference, Have not found Berlin listed there, but Porter Adams is listed as being an advocate for her being licensed to fly a plane across the Atlantic. (1923)

Update on Expo 2010

Maudean, Lewis and Norb attended a preliminary meeting at the Barre Historical Center. Norb’s son is working on an overlay for the old Berlin Map showing how the roads look today. We can get an enlarged banner of the Berlin Map at Staples for about \$150 which we would use as a backdrop. Lewis suggested using our castle stove to enhance our exhibit and after that attempt to sell it again.

Other Items

A representative of the Montpelier Historical Society has asked if we would be interested in meeting with them and the East Mont. Historical Societies this spring or summer.

Bill Doyle has offered to show us the new video on the history of Washington County at one of our meetings.

Evelyn Berglund has asked as to whether there was a road to the old granite quarry that started between the two Hewitt’s houses on Crosstown Road. There was nothing in Paul Gillies old roads that showed such a road. That road, wherever it left Crosstown Road would have been a private one anyway.

Neil Zaccari continues to ask about the Joselyns and the Nyes and we sent him a couple pictures of monuments in the East Road Cemetery.

Mrs Matt Levin asked if we had any information about their home at 148 Lord Road off Route 12. They are planning some renovation and want to know if their house was placed on the national historic register. We have no information on the house.

We have submitted our annual reports to the Town for inclusion in the 2009 Town Report.

Potential Future Programs

- Perrin History
- Brigham History
- Old Roads
- Washington County Video

Respectfully Submitted by Norb Rhinerson, acting Secretary