

Berlin Historical Society

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

The meeting, presided by President Corinne Stridsberg, commenced at 6:59 PM with the following members and guests present:

Corinne Stridsberg (President), Meredith Dodge (Secretary), Richard Turner, Mike Stridsberg, Robert and Toni Forrend, and Paul Irons.

An audio recording of the meeting was made.

Board Reports:

Secretary's Report: Meredith Dodge reviewed the annual report and financials submitted to the Town of Berlin for 2016. It was agreed that next year our report should provide clarification that BHS is an independent entity funded by member dues, gifts/bequests, books sales, etc. and does not receive funding from the town.

Treasurer's Report: A full Treasurer's report was not submitted as the Treasurer's position has not yet been filled. The Secretary will complete the April 2017 Financial Report for the records and file with the minutes of this meeting. The total BHS financial assets, as of 12/31/2016, was \$51,352.78. The checkbook balance as of 12/31/2016 was \$4,249.88. Since then, Richard Turner was reimbursed \$131 for expenses.

The total for the Edward Jones investment assets as of March 31, 2017 was \$33,393.26, submitted by email from Norb Rhinerson, which is an increase of \$1939.29 since year end.

Corinne inquired whether we should be a dues-paying member of the Vermont Old Cemetery Association. We are on the mailing list. Richard Turner identified our cemetery member is Wally Hudson. Richard does not see a reason to be an official member. This was followed by a discussion of proper "burial protocol" when being put in the ground and the corresponding location of the gravestones, as well as how to select cemetery to be buried in (i.e., whose family do you be buried with?).

Initial discussion about whether to establish an annual budget. This topic was deferred and will be put on the schedule for a meeting after the annual potluck dinner meeting.

The Secretary's report and financial disclosures (in lieu of a Treasurer's report) were accepted unanimously.

The Vice President and Treasurer positions remain open at this time.

Agenda Items:

Corinne has been clipping obituary and death notices from old newspapers and keeping an alphabetical list of the names and year of death for whom the notices have been saved. Vern may be able to use these notices to augment the Family Treemaker information.

Noted—Berlin resident population is currently almost 3000, but has a daytime population of about 28,000 (includes people in town for work, shopping, etc.).

BHS New Acquisitions

Richard Turner presented the new acquisitions he purchased for our library:

- 1955 telephone directory for Barre/Montpelier (we already have directories for 1932, 1937, 1946 in our inventory),
- several post cards – by George Bosworth, the Gline home in Riverton. Able to identify the Bosworth postcards by the watermark on the card in the location where the stamp is placed. Bosworth was a photographer circa early 1900s to 1915. Bosworth wrote an article in 1908 about the lucrative business of making postcards.
- book about Abby Hemenway. Abby Hemenway was the author of VT Historical Gazetteer in the 1880s.
- glass plate film negatives. The negatives include a photo of the Benjamin farm at the bottom of Benjamin Falls. There is a total of 118 negatives, 1930s vintage. Vern will be making a digital copy of the images.

Meredith Dodge presented two books on Vermont history that she recently acquired and will be donating to our library:

1901 VT Agricultural Report

1968 Vermont a Guide to Green Mountain State, 3rd edition

Also, 4 pencils for writing on back of photos (acid free)

Meeting schedule and topics for 2017

Discussed dates for the 2017 meeting schedule. Monthly meetings will continue to be held at the Berlin Town office at 7pm, with the office open at 6:30pm to look at photos or video being shared or to see other items in our collection. The 2017 meeting schedule was coordinated as follows:

- Wednesday, May 31st -- at E. F. Knapp Airport terminal, annual potluck 6pm, program 7pm - speaker "Amelia Earhart" portrayed by Jessa Piaia. Limited seating, please call 552-8804 to confirm seating.
- June 13 Tuesday

- July 11 Tuesday
- August 16 Wednesday
- September 12 Tuesday
- October 10 Tuesday
- November 8 Wednesday
- December 6 Wednesday

BHS Annual Meeting - Planning

Discussed program and dates for the annual potluck dinner meeting. After much discussion regarding cost of the program (\$575), it was unanimously agreed to engage Jessa Piaia from Massachusetts to perform her historical portrayal of Amelia Earhart. The Knapp airport has offered to host the event in their main terminal at no cost to BHS. They will supply table, chairs, and A/V equipment for the event. It was agreed to propose Wednesday, May 31st for the one-hour program. Corinne to follow-up with Jessa Piaia to confirm dates and logistics.

Corinne also highlighted that the newly-crowned Miss Vermont has a pilot’s license. She will reach out to Miss Vermont for a possible appearance at the event.

Due to the long drive from Massachusetts, we need to find someone to volunteer to host Jessa Piaia in their home overnight or incur the additional cost of a hotel room.

Update the Project Listing

Corinne handed out the current list of ongoing BHS projects. The project list document will be updated to include ideas presented at tonight’s meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:22PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meredith Dodge, Berlin Historical Society Secretary