

Our August meeting will be held at 7:00 pm on August 25 at the Berlin Town Office building. An agenda will follow at a date closer to the meeting date. Below are the July meeting minutes.

Richard Turner  
Secretary

### Berlin Historical Society

July 22, 2015

The meeting, presided by President Corinne Stridsberg, commenced at 7:12 with the following present: Corinne Stridsberg, Norb Rhinerson, Richard Turner, Robert and Toni Forrend, Lynn McManus, new member Cindy Gauthier, and guest Ruth Hooker.

The Treasurers report showing our total net assets as \$51,268.97 as of this date was given by treasurer Norb Rhinerson. As directed at our June meeting, Norb placed \$15,000 in a five year Certificate of Deposit at 1.24% at the Vermont State Employees Credit Union (VSECU). The rest of our CD that came due July 4, exclusive of \$30,000, was placed in our checking account. Corinne and I have consulted with Mark Perry of Edward Jones Investments to try to find a safe investment for the remainder of the CD that came due (\$30,000) but did not come up with any recommendations. Members at our BHS meeting decided to temporarily place the \$30,000 that we had earmarked for investment, in a savings account with VSECU. We will continue to search for a safe investment that will hopefully result in a more favorable interest rate.

There were no changes suggested to the June meeting minutes which had been sent to members previously. I will continue to e-mail minutes prior to each meeting with approval obtained at that meeting subject to corrections noted.

It was explained for the benefit of newer members that we negotiated with the Berlin Selectboard for space in the town office building when renovations were being considered. This resulted in our paying \$30,000 to the town for the space that we now occupy. The signed agreement that we have allows use of this room as long as we have an active Society.

Each attendee was asked to introduce themselves and tell us of their particular interests in our Society. Interests ranged from finding more about our early settlers and Berlin's history through our old photos to keeping an interest alive for Berlin's school children.

Corinne presented a list of projects that need work by our members. These were separated into: Immediate projects, Long Term projects, On-Going, Planning, Research, Annually Occurring and others to consider. The list (attached) is long so there are things on it that should interest almost all of us. Lets consider each tackling one and really contribute to our Societies knowledge of Berlin.

Membership was discussed with the idea of certain perks that we could offer as an incentive to join.

The Vermont History Expo will be held next year on June 18 & 19 in Tunbridge at the fairgrounds with a theme of "H2O: The Power of Water in Vermont History". We need to decide if we are to participate and if we do, what our subject will be. Berlin has a rich

history of water powered mills that might serve us well in deciding what to use for our display.

Cindy told us about an open house scheduled at the Berlin Elementary School in September. We could set up a booth at this open house as a way to reach more Berlin people, especially Berlin school children. We need to decide by August meeting time to give us time to prepare. Cindy also is planning for us to make a presentation to the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders this fall similar to the one we presented two years ago.

We do not have a Vice President now since Maudean is unavailable to continue. We need a volunteer to serve in that capacity.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Richard Turner, Secretary

Below is a partial list of projects that Corinne prepared a couple of weeks ago. I was unable to copy the entire list due to my incomplete mastery of computer science. The entire list is long and should contain projects that interest all of us. We have already worked on several items but we welcome any and all help that anyone can give us.

Richard

Jul 14

I have started a list of projects just to better understand what is going on and what is upcoming. I'm sure I haven't captured it all, please let me know what's missing along with any thoughts on items I've listed, especially the "consider" items.

#### BERLIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROJECTS

##### Immediate projects

- Need more info regarding putting money into mutual funds
- Transfer data to new laptop and make sure Carbonite is baking it up - **Richard** working on this
- Have generic business cards made with BHS contact information and links of website and history page
- Update letterhead - use BHS address at office
- Write letter to editor, include our updated contact info and dates of next two meetings
- Paint outside door of Historical Society, replacing sign - **Richard** working on this
- sign with contact info for outside door or could we try an outside business card holder since it's easy to change what the business cards say (<http://www.ebay.com/itm/Premium-Outdoor-Business-Card-Holder-W-Sticker-Peel-And-Stick-FREE-SHIPPING-/361128176235>)

##### Long Term projects

- Continue to scan photos and digitally file
- Scan documents to computer, important to have included in Carbonite back-up
- Continue collection of then and now photos
- Ask Pete Kelley about some aerial photos (need to have specific areas in mind) I wonder if Bill Croney would go up with him? He lives in Berlin and takes photos for Northfield News and spends time with Northfield Historical Society as he's from Northfield.
- Post office project, continue work on this - Norb has done lots of research but there are still some details to work on.

- Sorting and organizing materials. There is at least one box of items along with items in the fire safe filing cabinets and a drawer in the other file cabinets to sort through.
- School registries. Have made copies from 1928-1942. Continue gathering these lists into the 60's (then there are ones that go back further also). We have the school information sorted by school and it should continue that way but also make binder of copies of all the school group photos info along with lists of classmates to help in identifying.
- List of books in our collection, noting what books are available somewhere on line. Initially I was thinking a spreadsheet but discovered Northfield Historical Society uses "Library Thing" which gives them a list of their book collection AND the benefit of the information being accessible for folks homes.

#### On-Going

- Newspaper clippings - on going project to have them clipped - **Norbert** working on this
- Newspaper clippings - put into scrapbooks
- Monitor EBay and purchase items - **Richard**
- Post to Berlin, Vermont Memories facebook page - **Corinne**

#### Plan for:

- Monthly meetings - schedule and plan agendas
- Cindy Gauthier & Jane Boucher teachers at Berlin Elementary School would like at least a couple of Historical Society members to visit their class in the fall
- Expo 2016: June 18th and 19<sup>th</sup>, and the theme will be H<sub>2</sub>O: The Power of Water in Vermont History.

#### Research:

- Family Tree Maker software
- Information on Phebe Darling Hazzard
- Corinne Stridsberg & Liz Fortman are researching Davis Bros granite as that was their families

#### Read:

- Mary Nye diary from Michael Fiske

#### Annual

- File tax form / non-profit status info
- Reports (narrative and budget) by end of December/ very early January to Town Clerk for Town Report
- \$250 Payment to Town
- Payment to Carbonite and any virus software expense
- Dues to Vermont Historical Society
- Topic / Plan date / reserve church / advertise for Annual Meeting
- Even years, History Expo in Tunbridge
- ?

#### Consider:

- Portable sandwich sign to advertise our meetings, could be especially beneficial in months when taxes are due and there is lots of foot traffic. See attached file for sample of what it could say and this link for purchasing.