

Berlin Historical Society  
Meeting Minutes

June 13, 2017

The meeting, presided by President Corinne Stridsberg, commenced at 7:00 PM with the following members present:

Corinne Stridsberg, Mike Stridsberg, Meredith Dodge (by phone), Bob & Toni Forrend,  
Richard Turner, Norb Rhinerson, Bob Mercier

Ice Tea and Brownies provided by the Forrends.

An audio recording of the meeting was made.

**Board Reports**

Treasurer & Secretary Reports – Reports not available

**Agenda Items:**

*Annual Meeting Review*

Follow-up on “Amelia Earhart” program presented by Jessica Piaia at the E.F. Knapp Airport on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Corinne brought some photos she took at the event. A woman in attendance had brought her mother’s journal book with a magazine photo of Amelia Earhart and also included a recipe (for pineapple upside down cake) provided to her by Amelia during her visit when she flew in to Berlin in 1933. Corinne’s cousin brought a picture of Amelia Earhart taken during Amelia’s visit to the Vermont state house in 1935. Based on information provided by someone at our program, Corinne obtained a copy of Amelia Earhart’s speech from the state archives. Corinne checked the Norwich University archives for information about Amelia’s visit(s), as Amelia also spoke at Norwich during her visit.

Erin Connor, crowned Miss Vermont 2017 in April, attended the meeting. Erin is a licensed pilot and has a platform to promote women in the field of sciences (STEM), so she had a particular interest in attending and learning more about the life of Amelia Earhart.

Earl Everhart from Williamstown, builds firetrucks and is a history buff. He was very enthusiastic to attend our event.

BHS coordinated with Westview Meadows for Jessica Piaia to perform her “Ameila Earhart” program at their facility in the afternoon, before our event. Westview Meadows is interested in coordinating with us on future programs and events. Under discussion is for Manny to do a presentation this fall, perhaps his program about Winooski Valley.

Meredith Dodge will write thank you notes to those who supported the event:

Wayne Lamberton - Donated two nights at Comfort Inn for Jessica Piaia  
VT Aviation – Donated \$200 for the Amelia program

Corinne discussed with Jennifer Davis from the Knapp airport whether it might be possible to showcase some of our historical airport photos in their hall or in their digital hall display.

Michael Stridsberg discussed the sound system used at the event. We rented a cordless microphone with a wireless battery pack. Connected this to Michael’s personal speaker/amplifier system. BHS to think about future events and whether to continue to rent equipment or possibly purchase a microphone. Rental cost was \$29 for 24 hours. Purchase cost for similar unit is about \$300. To be discussed further as we consider future events.

### *Vermont Historical Society*

Received letter from VHS that they will no longer be sponsoring the Vermont History Expo. The Expo had been held bi-annually at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds. Richard Turner provided the background about the event—it had originally begun in 1999 as the Heritage Weekend, with local towns sponsoring different history events over a single weekend. Eventually it evolved to a single event at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds. In lieu of the VT History Expo, VHS will now sponsor smaller history events at various locations throughout the year. BHS will need to discuss any display projects we may want to do on our own in lieu of having the Expo theme to work on.

Corinne doing cemetery research at VHS to cross-reference the DAR cemetery information for Black Cemetery, East Road Cemetery and others with our BHS cemetery information. They have volumes of books of cemetery information. Note—The VHS library has a large inventory of genealogy books not just on Vermont, but also other New England states.

### *BHS Display Material*

Our historical display items currently stored over at the elementary school need to be moved while the school is undergoing renovations. Need to look at alternative storage locations or places to put them on display. Possible display locations to consider include Comfort Inn or Maplewood service center.

### *General Discussion Items*

Corinne has reviewed the Berlin Memories facebook page and made a few updates.

Corinne received a request from a college student for information about the Berlin Literary Association. The student had a letter which referenced the association on the envelope. The student had transcribed the letter and included it in a research paper on the Civil War. Corinne recited a poem from this paper, entitled "Here's What's the Matter". The poem was written by Berlin resident, Lucius Hadlock, during the Civil War and sent home to Artemus Pearson, who was the Berlin postmaster from 1858-1893. The letter/poem will be put in the file under "Hadlock" and cross-referenced to "Civil War".

Discussion about Twin City Trojans baseball team, who played in a Vermont baseball league in the 1930s - 50s. The league was suspended for a few years during the war.

Discussion about bricks, brick collecting and a local brick company in Barre from 1867. Richard Turner showed some bricks obtained from the old Stuart place, by permission of David Perrin. Richard reminded us about the list he created to identify the artifacts in our inventory, including a description of how and when the object was obtained.

Discussion about history of Dewey Park. A volunteer at VHS, Sandra, who had grown up in the area, identified that there had been several entrances to the park, that people in Montpelier would go to Hubbard Park, people who lived from Barre St. over would go to Dewey Park. Note— River Street was also referred to as River Road, Barre St was Hubbard St., along the river Memorial Drive was Winooski Avenue. Useful to know when doing research.

Corinne showed old pictures of the bottom of Northfield St. /Memorial Drive showing there was a house behind the gas station. A foundation of the house still exists at the site.

Taylor Lockwood came by the town office to do some research on the Turner house for a paper. Her family had lived in the Turner house for several years. She met with Richard Turner to get information about the house.

Nancy Crestwell doing research for Don Rich about his farm on Post Hill Road in Berlin and will share a copy with our society when completed.

Shaw's grocery store in Berlin currently has come old pictures of the area on display in their store, but none of the pictures are of Berlin. Corinne asked for suggestions for historic pictures to display at Shaw's.

### *Board Elections*

Discussion about open board positions for VP and Treasurer positions, as well as three general director board positions.

Motion by Norb Rhinerson to nominate Corinne Stridsberg to continue as President. Motion seconded by Richard Turner. Motion approved by unanimous consent.

Motion by Michael Stridsberg to nominate Meredith Dodge as Treasurer. Motion seconded by Norb Rhinerson. Motion approved by unanimous consent.

There were no additional board nominations made at this meeting.

Motion by Michael Stridsberg that until a new nomination is made for the Secretary position, at the start of each meeting, a Secretary pro-temp be nominated to record the meeting minutes for that meeting. This pro-temp nomination process will be followed among the attending members until a nomination is made for the Secretary position. Motion approved by unanimous consent. Toni Forrend offered to be considered for Secretary pro-temp when she is available.

The next meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, July 11, 2017 and Wednesday, August 16, 2017. There are many projects on the Project List that has been circulated. Always looking for volunteers to work on one of the identified projects or other projects of interest!

Motion to adjourn by Michael Stridsberg. Meeting adjourned at 9:28pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meredith Dodge, Berlin Historical Society Secretary