

## Groton Historical Society Minutes

Wednesday, July 6

Present: Erik Volk, Deborah Jurist, Phyllis Burke, Brent Smith, Diane Kreis, Mike Blair

Absent: Alissa Smith

- Meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM.
- Minutes were read and accepted
- Alissa had left her Treasurer's Report which was read and accepted in her absence

### Old Business

- **VHS Tape Conversion** – Deborah investigated converting the “Through Our Neighbors Eyes” video from VHS to DVD and had found that the Photo Factory in Littleton can do the work. Conversion is \$30 and additional copies are \$11. Erik reported that Janet Page had indicated that she had equipment and that her husband Tom had been in the process of converting the video. He will check to see if they ever did the conversion before Deb arranges to have it converted.
- **William Scott Memorial** – Mike Blair had indicated that he had been helping to maintain the grounds around the memorial and that a secret person had been putting geraniums at the memorial for several years although that is no longer occurring. The secret benefactor who would visit from out of state had believed she was related to William Scott although it actually ended up being a different William Scott. Diane indicated that she had had the memorial stone cleaned about a year ago. Diane also reported that she had contacted the Department of Highways and had been told that we were not allowed to do anything for the site other than trash pickup.
- **Civil War Memorabilia** – Mike indicated that he has been a collector of Civil War memorabilia and although he has sold off much of his collection, he still has a number of items we may be interested in. These include a roster that has William Scott's name on it and also a roster with Seth Eastman's name on it. They are both in period frames. He also has copies of the enlistment papers for 10 soldiers from Groton as well as some old photos of area residents. The possibility of including this in the historical book display planned for the Library but there were concerns about the safety of the historical items. Deb Jurist proposed that we have the items available for display and perusal at the Banjo Dan concert with Mike monitoring the table with the display items. Mike's email is Msblair4@yahoo.com.
- **Banjo Dan Concert** – The Fire Department has agreed to host a chicken barbecue for the concert which will most likely be set up in front of the fire station. Deb expressed concern about there being enough space for what may end up being a large number of people as there appears to be significant interest. The discussion of closing the small street by the parking area to allow for more seating. Also, it was discussed that we will need to notify people to bring their own chairs and let them know there will be food. Although a number of the press releases have been issued already, Erik will check with Janet to see if we can add the additional information in those that have not been issued and be sure to include it in future communications. Deb indicated we do need to create posters and she will work on that and will ask Erik for assistance if she has any issues. Deborah also indicated that she was thinking we would now sell pies by the slice at the

event as an additional money maker and we will need volunteer pie makers. The pies can be made in advance and stored in the freezer at the church. She estimated we should make about 10 pies. It was decided that \$3 a slice might be a good price.

- **Groton School Reunion** – Erik and Deborah reported that the reunion was a success and we conducted about 16 interviews although the sound quality on some were poor. In addition, we sold 8 books and got 10 new members including a lifetime member. They held a raffle at the reunion and they stated that 50% of the proceeds would go to the Historical Society. This was unexpected but no money was received. Deborah will follow up with Ann Winters.

**New Business**

- **House Restoration Interviews**- Deborah indicated that she would like to conduct interviews with those individuals who were involved with the house restoration and create a display of photos of those individuals for display in the house. A preliminary list of names was discussed which included Josephine French, Harold Puffer (Janet Puffer) , Deane Page, Diane Kreis, Willard Benzie, Herbie Hatch and Paul Tinkham. Diane indicated that there were some previous interviews conducted but we are not sure where the tapes are.
  - **Interstate Construction** – Brent indicated he would like to do a project about area residents who worked on the interstate. He will get in touch with Herbie Hatch for a possible interview.
  - **WEB Site** – Erik indicated he has been working on the new WEB site and is uploading all the information received from Don Smith. It may take a while before it is completed. The new WEB site is in a state where it can be viewed and can be found at [www.grotonvthistory.org](http://www.grotonvthistory.org). Links to our WEB site from the Town Site, etc. will need to be updated.
  - **Facebook Queries** – Erik reported that we received two inquiries recently via Facebook. One had to do with procuring photos of Wayne Fraiser, who served at the Baptist church or his family. The other had to do with providing historical information on waterways in our area. Brent indicated that there were two books printed about the dams in the area and he believes copies were provided to the Library. Erik will follow up to see if they can be located.
- Meeting was adjourned at 7:26 PM.

**Action Items**

Brent	Follow up with Paul Tinkham and Herb Hatch about interviews.
Deborah	Follow up with Ann Winters about raffle money from reunion
Deborah	Contact Dave Spencer and Don Smith about updating links to our WEB site.
Erik	Check with Janet Page to see if the video has already been converted to DVD.
Erik	Follow up with Ann Hatch about historical display at the library in conjunction with concert.

Erik	Check with Janet Page about making pies and whether the Recreation Committee could help with cleanup.
Phyllis	Investigate whether her husband has any tents we could use for the concert.
Phyllis, Deborah & Diane	Make pies for concert.