

**Starksboro Historical Society *Annual Meeting***

**Date: January 27, 2025**

**Location: Town Office**

**Time: 6:30 - 8:15 PM**

**(Plus tour of Collections Room until 9PM)**

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Dan Baker, Olive Phillips, Kevin Hanson, Peg Casey, Ruth Beecher

**MEMBERS/VISITORS PRESENT:** Elsa Gilbertson, Cecilia Elwert, Margi Gregory

**WELCOME:** After Elsa presented us with a lovely tin of Swedish gingerbread cookies in honor of former town and SHS member Cynthia Kling, Dan called us to order at 6:35 with a hearty Happy New Year.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** President Dan Baker presented his Annual Report for our year in review: The Starksboro Historical Society (SHS) substantially increased its activities in 2024. It held well attended public events, including:

- \*Women of the Revolution presentation by Elsa Gilbertson
- \*Lost Nation movie and Q & A with Jay Craven
- \*McCullough Turnpike presentation by John Croft, Chief of the Vermont Agency of Transportation Mapping Section

In addition, activities of the SHS included:

- \*Formalized its collections policies and archives
- \*Restored and updated the SHS website and cemetery database
- \*Meeting with the Starksboro Selectboard on preparations for the 250th celebration of Vermont's role in the American Revolution as well as discussions about resuming the history section in the Town Report
- \*Met with regional Historical Societies to share and coordinate activities
- \*Held regular SHS Meetings
- \*Joined the Vermont Historical Society
- \*Joined the Vermont Old Cemeteries Association
- \*Began plans for activities in 2025

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** A motion was made and seconded to approve minutes from 11-04-24 with no discussion.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Current balance of \$2,679.69 was detailed in Treasurer Kevin Hanson's Annual Report for FY 2024.

**ARCHIVIST'S REPORT:** Details were discussed regarding Archivist Kevin Hanson's *Activity for 2024*, including a catalog system, discussions with Bristol Historical Society, Collections Room reorganization, accessions that were added to database, and more. Still to consider: collections subcommittee, collections policy, environmental control, and fireproof cabinet(s). Many thanks and accolades were given to Kevin, who has taken all of this on with gusto!

**PROGRAMS/EVENTS:** SHS agreed to participate with the Town's upcoming community event on March 8th 11:00-2:00 at Robinson School, so far to include a chili contest and sugar on snow. We are hoping to include a digital scanning station to involve the community in sharing their historic photos, and then to add to our database. Ruth is also looking into renting a kit from Middlebury's Sheldon Museum with Games and Toys from the late 1700s and 1800s.

**NEW ACTIVITY PLANS/IDEAS:** Elsa discussed her project of updating Bertha's Book; we also discussed digitizing interviews in our collections. Other ideas discussed were organizing mini field trips around town; and possibly having QR codes and maps for different tours in town like one Margi mentioned starting in Hillsboro as part of her Vermont Master Naturalist project.

**DUES/MEMBERSHIP:** January is when we make our annual appeal for membership dues. Many thanks to those of you who have already contributed your dues for 2025. We also thank our Life Members! If you feel so moved, kindly send dues payable to *Starksboro Historical Society* to our treasurer:

Kevin Hanson

51 North St

Bristol VT 05443

(January - December)

Annual Individual Dues: \$10

Annual Family Dues: \$15

Lifetime Membership: \$150

For more information, here is a link to the Starksboro Historical Society's website, hosted by the Starksboro Meeting House: <https://starksboromeetinghouse.org/shs/default.asp?Check=True>

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** Pete Antos-Ketcham announced he is stepping down as Member at Large. We thank Pete for his service and his ongoing work for our community. We also thank Elsa Gilbertson for being willing to rejoin as Member at Large.

A motion made, seconded and approved with no discussion to elect full slate of officers:

President: Dan Baker

Vice-president: Olive Phillips

Treasurer: Kevin Hanson

Archivist: Kevin Hanson

Secretary: Ruth Beecher

Members at Large: Peg Casey, Elsa Gilbertson, and Herb Olson

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Cecilia shared that Diane Leary, a member of Vermont Old Cemetery Association (VOCA), is willing to join us at the Village Cemetery across from Robinson School on Rte 116 to clean the headstones and markers some time this year between May and October. She will show us how it's done, as well as supplies needed (some of which Dan has and will share). *VOCA was founded in Vermont in 1958 to encourage the restoration and preservation of neglected and abandoned cemeteries in the State of Vermont. Vermont cemeteries date back to the 1700's.* While our Village Cemetery is not abandoned, it's certainly in need of ongoing care to honor our veterans and past town residents.

Elsa reminded us that years ago, SHS voted on providing maple trees along the edge of Green Mountain Cemetery off Cemetery Rd and suggested that we revisit this. Peg offered to pursue the next step.

Elsa also mentioned that perhaps boxes of old school books that were donated could be displayed in the Jerusalem Schoolhouse.

**PARKING LOT:**

PO Box procurement - yes or no?

Future Meetings: how often to meet, create schedule (day of month, time, location)

Collections Committee - ReCollector photo scanning evening

Community presentations vs smaller programs as part of regular meetings

Collections Management Policy

Bylaws

**PROGRAM IDEAS:**

Pat Melvin music

Robinson School students at Meeting House

SHS event combined with Select Board's monthly community event (such as March 8!)

Ice Cream social

Crown Point Bridge sharing

VT 250th events

Tools and Reenactments

**NEXT MEETING:**

Date: Monday, March 3rd - come join us!

Time: 6:30

Location: Public Library

**CLOSING:** Meeting was adjourned at 8:15, followed by a tour of the Collections Room until 9:00.

Respectfully submitted,

*Ruth Beecher*