

## Starksboro Historical Society

April 30, 2024

### Starksboro First Baptist Church

Attendees: Michael Blakeslee, Olive Phillips, Deb Blakeslee, Ruth Beecher, Richard Warren, Noreen McDonough, Kevin Hanson, Peg Casey, Herb Olsen, Brant Gordon, Elsa Gilbertson

President Michael Blakeslee called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and welcomed attendees. He noted the secretary/treasurer Dan Baker was not able to attend, thus no treasurer's report.

He reported the last meeting was on December 16, 2021, that it was time to get started and was encouraged by the interest. He opened with reading from the Starksboro history timeline in *Bertha's Book*. He next summarized the minutes from the last meeting. Blakeslee then reported on fixing the lock on the collection room in the town offices.

The group then discussed the election of officers, and the group was asked about interest. He summarized the board list—Blakeslee, president; Phillips, vice president; Baker, secretary/treasurer; at large members Pete Anthos-Ketcham and Gilbertson. Cynthia Kling, who passed away in December, was the other at large member. Robert Stokes is president emeritus. R. Beecher offered to be secretary again or a member at large. After discussion, Blakeslee suggested forgoing the election of officers until the next meeting. K. Hanson suggested the need for someone to keep track of/document the collection inventory and is interested in this. The group then discussed the program aspect of the society. It was suggested looking at the by-laws to see what is included. R. Beecher said everything, including the minutes from the past, are in a notebook; current secretary should have the notebook.

Blakeslee mentioned the website. K. Hanson reported software has changed over the years, he is willing to try again to update it. P. Casey mentioned the town website, perhaps there could be links for meeting dates, etc. She will look into this and get back to K. Hanson. Blakeslee reported he acquired some shelves for the collection room. R. Beecher noted in the past the society would brainstorm ideas and make a list of responsibilities, who would do what. E. Gilbertson noted the Starksboro Roads booklet the society did some years and has for sale.

General discussion about future events:

1. Program on history of Starksboro, would be nice for new people in town.
2. Work with Vermont Old Cemetery Association, concentrating on village cemetery. Blakeslee noted the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our nation coming up in 2026 and the opportunities. He noted a number of Revolutionary War veterans settled in Starksboro, are buried there, and read a list. He noted P. Casey had worked with the school, reviving marching to the cemetery for Memorial Day and placing flags.
3. Program on history of McCullough Turnpike by John Croft; could be at Jerusalem School.
4. Program, asking Monkton Historical Society to collaborate, on the women of the Champlain Valley in the Revolutionary War; could be at the Meeting House, as back wall

is a great screen. E. Gilbertson noted interest in Monkton group on working with neighboring societies, one of these women is from Monkton.

5. Activities/programs with young people, including hands-on activities.
6. R. Beecher suggested looking at old minutes for ideas.
7. H. Olsen talked about Ireland Road and looking at old roads, identifying them, the locations of the buildings around them. P. Casey suggested mapping.
8. Blakeslee relayed a program he did with the elementary school in Hillsboro.
9. E. Gilbertson brought up that the society had voted on a project to plant new maple trees along the front of the Green Mountain Cemetery, to look back and “plant” something for the future. Blakeslee had talked to one of the cemetery commissioners, there might be a road right of way issue. Perhaps the maple trees could be planted on the inside of the fence.
10. Schools--H. Olsen talked about district schools and finding their locations. E. Gilbertson mentioned the town report with the history of all the schools that the society worked on with her. D. Blakeslee made the case that if school children are involved, it gives them a great grounding and foundation as they grow up in this world. N. McDonough reported that in Newfane there is an area in town with small markers with numbers, and the numbers refer to a map showing all the locations and providing historic information.

R. Warren asked if there is any long-term plan to establish a museum? Blakeslee said there is a desire, but no real space. The library sometimes has displays. P. Casey said when the lift is installed in the town hall, maybe there would be space upstairs. R. Beecher stressed the need for security of display items.

Future meetings: P. Casey suggested earlier meetings, rather than later, perhaps 6:00 to 7:00 pm and being efficient or starting at 6:30 pm. Some meetings could include history discussions. R. Warren noted that full blown presentations should be for the public, everyone agreed. It was suggested last Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm., perhaps monthly in summer and every other month in winter. K. Hanson mentioned the list of members, interested people, etc., and email mailing list. R. Beecher said the list should be in the secretary notebook. P. Casey and H. Olsen noted their willingness to be board members at large. The next meeting is Tuesday, May 28, at 6:30, location to be determined.

Blakeslee mentioned membership and showed the old form. He suggested the dues remain the same: \$10 yearly, \$15 family yearly, \$150 lifetime membership.

H. Olsen shared his Addison County Beers Atlas for people to look at. E. Gilbertson mentioned the first Starksboro Conservation Commission reprinted the Starksboro map and sold it.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted, E. Gilbertson