

## **Starksboro Historical Society (SHS)**

**Date: 6-24-24**

Location: Village Meeting House

7:00 - 8:15 PM Program

8:15-8:45 PM Snacks and Socializing

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Dan Baker, Olive Phillips, Kevin Hanson, Herb Olson, Pete Antos-Ketcham, Ruth Beecher

**MEMBERS/VISITORS PRESENT:** Elsa Gilbertson, Mike Blakeslee, and 29 more folks!

**WELCOME:** President Dan Baker started our brief business meeting at 6:30 welcoming officers, as well attendees as they arrived.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Ruth Beecher read aloud the Minutes from May 28, 2024 which were moved, seconded and accepted with no discussion.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Kevin Hanson read the Treasurer's Report with activity dated 5/28/24-6/24/24 summarizing beginning balance of \$2,237.99 with \$320.06 total deposits and interest (including sale of a Roads booklet, and Membership Dues including two life members), with no expenses, resulting in ending balance of \$2,558.05. Treasurer's Report was moved, seconded and accepted with no discussion.

**LIBRARY UPDATE:** With the librarian's assistant, Dan looked at SHS possessions in the Starksboro Public Library, including a Grange Bible, items relating to local history, and more. Decisions need to be made about what to do with these items, how/where to present them, what will stay public in the library, what will be moved into our locked Archive Room, whether or not there could be a new, secure space in SPL, and what should be given away. Right now, these items are filling up the library's kitchen - while there is no deadline yet, the librarian wants feedback from SHS. We are wondering if there is a space issue, too much clutter, or what the problem is with having historical items in the library. Dan, Kevin, Mike Blakeslee and Elsa Gilbertson will work together to help sort and follow through. Questions and thoughts are welcome.

**DISCUSSION:** Kevin outlined the need for a Collections Management policy, stating that it needs to be crisp with an operating statement, and detail what to keep/accept as artifacts, reference materials, etc. He offered to create a draft for our next meeting, and will send the draft to Officers before Aug 5th for feedback. It was suggested that perhaps the Bristol Historical Society could offer support with such a policy.

Kevin mentioned he was able to explore the State's Archival system with Elsa's connection. There is a \$49 one-time fee. Kevin proposes we buy this program for SHS. A suggestion was made to purchase an independent hard drive that would be owned by SHS to be sure archival information could be saved and shared. Meanwhile, the archival information will be put on Dropbox and thus be available 'in the Cloud'. A motion was made, seconded and approved to purchase the program. As Archivist, Kevin will follow through.

**NEXT MEETING:**

Date: MONDAY, AUG 5th, 2024

Time: 6:30PM

Location: Village Meeting House

**Business Meeting was Adjourned at 7:00PM for Elsa Gilbertson's Program: Strong Women of Vermont's South Lake Champlain Valley during the American Revolution.**

Dan opened up the next segment, welcoming all 37 folks in the audience. Before beginning, Kevin presented booklets for sale on Starksboro Roads (\$10), Sugaring in Starksboro (\$8), and History in Starksboro in the form of Bertha's Book (\$15). The Roads booklet proceeds go to SHS, while the Sugaring and Bertha's books go to the Meeting House.

Elsa began her "[I]llustrated talk introducing some of the resilient women of Vermont's southern Lake Champlain Valley during the American Revolution in the 1770s and 1780s. How did the war interrupt their lives? What were their contributions leading to settlement and as founders of their new towns and the new nation?" Elsa led us through a lively presentation replete with photographic slides, commentary and humor, much to the delight of the entire audience. Mike Blakeslee of Starksboro, who was dressed in full Revolutionary regalia (that he himself had made!), agreed to model his tri-corn hat. Nancy Pecca of Waltham shared a wide variety of wares that Settlers would gather and

sell to the soldiers of Addison and Fort Ticonderoga in the summers - these wares were not available as rations so were very well received.

After the program, everyone was invited to have snacks and drinks. Beforehand, several members of the audience shared announcements:

May 30, 2026: Tom Hughes mentioned there will be a Rededication Celebration of the Ann Story Cabin on the west side of Salisbury. He and Jim Rowe are both involved with Friends of Ann Story (more details on FaceBook). Jim mentioned how they have been clearing brush on the land near the Ann Story Cabin, which is south of the Shard Villa Retirement Home. There is a monument from 1905 placed in her honor at the site of her cabin. The Ann Story cabin was re-created in the mid-1970s, but burned in the early 2000s. The goal is to create a new cabin by 2026, the 250th anniversary. Jim offered to show folks around this site, including the Ann Story Cave on the other side of Otter Creek. Ann Story is known as the Mother of the Green Mountain Boys.

Paula Sargeant of DAR mentioned some upcoming programs with the Daughters of the American Revolution, including

June 30 DAR John Strong Mansion: State Regent will do a genealogy program

July 4 Open House at the Cornwall DAR House, including a strawberry social

July 20 Cornwall DAR House: genealogy program

Mike Blakeslee mentioned there will be a reenactment of the Battle of Hubbarton on July 6 and 7 at the Hubbarton Battlefield.

Program successfully ended at 8:15, with folks lingering to snack and socialize until 8:45PM!

**Addendum regarding upcoming program:** Mike Blakeslee reported on June 25 that John Croft is available in late September or early October with to present on the McCullough Turnpike (now known as Vt Rte 17). We are hoping for a foliage backdrop at the Jerusalem Schoolhouse up south!

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruth Beecher