

## **STARКСBORO HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

### **Minutes of the Starksboro Historical Society September 8, 2025. Starksboro Public Library *Draft until approved.***

Present: Dan Baker, Peg Casey, Olive Phillips, Elsa Gilbertson, Keven Hanson, Cecilia Elwert, Herb Olson.

Dan called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. The draft agenda was approved. The draft minutes were approved. Herb was appointed to prepare draft minutes of this meeting.

Members discussed whether the public should be notified of the meetings of the Starksboro Historical Society ("SHS"). No firm decision in general, but members thought that the public should be notified when SHS has a presentation at the beginning of a meeting.

Ruth Beecher has notified SHS that she needed to resign from her position as Secretary of SHS. Members expressed their gratitude and empathy for Ruth as she navigates some difficult times. No official Secretary has been appointed.

Archivist Report: Kevin reports that our collection room could use a dehumidifier/AC to maintain proper humidity levels. Kevin presented data on humidity levels from March through July, 2025 showing elevated levels. SHS has funds to purchase an air conditioner, but the Selectboard will need to be consulted about the cost of electricity, etc. Whether or not to purchase a air conditioner will be discussed at a future meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Kevin distributed our balance sheet for the period 6/3/2025 to 9/8/2025. Community Bank Balance \$6,795.70. Uncommitted Balance \$6,833.20 (accrual of \$37.50 anticipated from the Library Share of Curtain Talk). Peg moved and Elsa seconded approval of the Treasurers Report . Motion passed 7-0.

#### **Fall events:**

Members considered a potential SHS presentation of the Jerusalem Schoolhouse/Fire Station this fall or early winter. Re-construction of the building will begin spring 2026. After much discussion, the consensus seemed to be that SHS should host a presentation on the Town Fire Department before Thanksgiving, followed by a presentation on the Jerusalem School house after Thanksgiving. Peg will consult with Tom Estey. Cecilia will consult with the Jerusalem Schoolhouse restoration group.

Harvest festival upcoming. Members discussed how to support the town organizations offering food support for our neighbors in need. There are several groups: The Fire Department Auxiliary, which then distributes funds to other food organizations, the Starksboro Food Shelf, the Starksboro Food Share program, and the Pet Food Shelf..

Members are encouraged to bring baked goods, etc. to the Harvest Festival to raise money for these programs.

Vermont 250th Anniversary. Members reached a consensus that participating in the Leahy grant program would be too complicated relative to the benefits. Other planned events: July 4th bell ringing at 2:00 pm. July 8th, simultaneous reading of the Declaration of Independence. Members discussed whether Mike would be interested in delivering a sermon in the church as part of a re-enactment ceremony.

Cecilia reported on communications with the Vermont Cemetery Association concerning a grant for Starksboro's cemeteries. She will know more later in October.

Bertha's Book update: No discussion noted.

Website development: Members agreed that an offer from a web designer received by Dan would be declined.

Communications from other Historical Societies: Members were notified that the next "Neighborly Meeting" will be held at the New Haven Historical Society on September 28th. Also, the Champlain Railroad Society hosts monthly meetings from 7:30 to 9:00. Other local historical societies include Bristol, Monkton, Lincoln, Ferrisburg and Vergennes.

Other business. Discussion of a community tree planting project. Tony Porter, Selectboard, is the tree warden.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm. The next SHS meeting will be on Tuesday, October 7th at 6:30 pm at the Library.

Respectfully submitted: Herb Olson