

August 5, 2025 Springfield Historical Society Meeting Minutes

The board met at the home of Jim Bednar, beginning at 4:10 pm; members present: Jim Bednar, Gregory Bruss, Melissa Patten, Alison Patten, Pixie Hill, Angela MacCreighton and Nyla Waddell. Non-members present: Tom Cleaveland and Deb Hildebrand.

Alison Patten moved to accept July Meeting minutes, Gregory Bruss seconded; approved unanimously.

Angela MacCreighton's treasurer's report showed \$58,702.12 in the accounts. A 7-month CD is coming due, which Angela will renew it for a 5-month period.

Among recent events, the Ramble Round the Lake was a huge success, with double the number of runners from 2024 and raising nearly \$6000. The Forever Locked display at Old Home Day was also a success. Seven volunteers participated in the half-day catalog training on August 1, which focused on Library and Archives. On Aug. 2 Mary Kronenwetter gave a talk on Corbin Park to a large audience at the Meeting House.

Upcoming events include Jim and Gregory will meet with a Bellows Falls, VT company that could restore the Sanborn Map. On August 16, from 9-2, headstone cleaning and restoration will take place at the cemetery. On Wednesday, Aug. 27, Gregory and Dan Hildebrand will talk about Native Americans at Wonderwell.

Ideas for next year were suggested including a campaign to "Preserve the Past for the Future" as a way to get families or individuals to adopt an artifact or help raise money for necessary items such as LED lighting for the museum.

A long discussion ensued regarding the oral history projects. Filmmaker Theresa Chamberland was given 9 hours of raw footage to get her advice on how best to make them useable. Instead, she completed an extensive and valuable indexing and submitted an unexpected bill for \$1,920. Jim Bednar discussed the situation with Ms Chamberland and the donor and proposed that the board approve payment of the bill, agree to adjust the continuing oral history project to complete three theme-based films and reduce the number of veteran oral histories to five. The donor has agreed with this approach. The three themed videos would be: 1) Growing up in Springfield, 2) Going to school in Springfield and 3) Springfield from 1950-1980. Pixie motioned to pay the \$1920 from the general budget, Gregory seconded and it was passed unanimously. The cost of the three themed-based videos would be \$1600. Completing five veteran films would be \$1675. Jim motioned to expend \$1600 from the Heritage Fund which currently has a balance of \$3161.25. Alison seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. Jim Bednar then proposed the five veteran videos be completed for cost \$1675 to be paid with the remaining \$1561.25 in the 2025 Heritage Fund budget with an additional \$113.75 needed from the general budget. Jim motioned, Alison seconded and approved unanimously.

The meeting concluded with a discussion of projects at the museum and tool shed. Gregory announced the discovery of silver fish in the museum which could be devastating for the paper collection. Greg and Jim will discuss this when at the Bellows Falls visit as to the best approach to eradication. Janet and Dave Hausman have generously donated and installed black out shades for all of the windows at the museum. This is a huge benefit in the protection of the collection. Alison is working with a fellow on a rain gutter system for the tool shed. The town will be doing an energy audit next year and we will hopefully have some updates on LED lighting for the museum.

The next SHS Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 9 at Jim Bednar's house at 4:10 pm.

The meeting adjourned to 5 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Pixie Hill, Secretary