

Dresden Historical Society – P. O. Box 201 – Dresden, Maine 04342
Minutes from January 10, 2016

In attendance – Joe Wiley (Co-President), John Ottum (Co-President), Amanda Silverman (Vice President), Eleanor Everson, Shari Lilly (Secretary), Carole Sargent, Kate Waters and Linda Larson. Meetings are being held at Bridge Academy for the winter months. John welcomed our newest members, Kate Waters and Linda Larson.

Secretary Report for the previous meeting was approved after one requested addition by Eleanor to have the presentation of the plaque she was presented at our November meeting by the 'Needle Club' spokesperson, Teri Parker, in recognition and appreciation of all she and her mother, Jennie Everson, had done for the town and the Historical Society.

Treasury Report – No report was available in the absence of our treasurer.

Other – a.) Buildings – Joe wants to thank Jamie for draining the water at the Yellow Schoolhouse, but he would like to ask him to write up instructions as to the steps he takes to winterize the buildings in case someone else would need to do it in the future. Also, information on the antifreeze he uses in the toilet. It was mentioned that we need to fix the area around the window that is leaking and do something about the roof as we know that needs to be taken care of. It was noted that the best suggestion was what Jeff Pierce had recommended which includes putting new plywood on the roof and then shingles. We need to find a place to get rid of the shingles. As everyone realizes how busy Jeff is these days, John suggested asking Kurt James to take a look at it, give us a price and then we can discuss it at another meeting and make the plans for this coming summer. Eleanor made a motion to get two (2) estimates on a (temporary) roof repair. Kate seconded and the motion passed by vote. Eleanor asked if the building has been checked to see if any of our supplies, such as water, soda or other liquids have been frozen. John said he would check on those things. He said we would also have to include a walk-through check of the buildings on the winterization list.

b.) Chili/Chowder Fund-raising Supper – We will have this event on Saturday, February 20, with the times being from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. as it is felt that not many people show up after that. The usual group of members will make their specialties, including our newest members. Others will bring something to either go with the chili/chowders or drinks, condiments or desserts. Anyone willing to make a chowder, chili or help out in some way is more than welcome to do so. Shari will put the word out. We can use all the help we can get. John will ask Julie if she will make posters to put up in various locations in town and in surrounding areas. We need to make sure we have enough people cooking for the possible amount of people. As to a price, it was decided to ask a donation of \$7.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children under 12. Shari will ask Trudy to reserve the Hall for that date. We will set up the night before. Shari has some extra power strips that can be used. We will also need some smaller bowls/cups for taste-testing and ladles for serving.

c.) Harvest Supper – John said he has been contacted by the PTF in regard to the possibility they take over hosting the Harvest Supper. He will meet with them on Wednesday. It seems that putting the word out has helped. John will get a list of all those who have helped us in the past so Shari can send out thank you cards.

d.) Archival Process – Eleanor and Carole have been working on the archiving, but have been slowed by not having the Rea's to help with computer details. They need more help, especially

for sorting books and grouping items. We need to investigate the second floor of the brick school to see what's there. Eleanor said a placard is placed for the addresses of the old post offices/boxes. She also mentioned that the town reports need to be sorted and see how to preserve them. It was suggested to scan them and then put on the computer. There are boxes from the Souviney's, Gagne's and others with papers that need going through. Also, the papers on cemeteries need to be indexed. Carole has cataloged photos that need to be matched with negatives. These need to be scanned. She said they need cards with info and data. Eleanor has a notebook with photos and information on houses in town.

e.) Museum – Eleanor mentioned that we should be thinking about what to have for this year's display.

f.) Assessing records / other special records – The records that got wet a number of years ago and have been wrapped in plastic since are still a concern that we want to address. Jay Robbins, Eleanor and Dale Hinote were going to get together to see if they can be restored or saved in any way. Eleanor said that Freda Stilphen Witham (a former Dresden resident) had been a writer for the Kennebec Journal for many years and had numerous articles that she has been trying to get. Also, there are papers from Pownalborough Courthouse that is at Jay's, but she hasn't been able to get any of that so far. Joe said he wants to have our town's accessing records take priority while we have a DHS member that is on the Selectboard. He suggested to talk to the Selectboard first, see what they situation is with the books and then go from there. Also, we may be able to get some type of grants. John will talk to Dale and let us know at the next meeting.

New Business - a.) It was discussed and voted to change the winter meetings to the third Sunday of each month at 2:00 p.m.

b.) The 'Supper' committee will meet on February 14th to get things arranged.

Motion to adjourn was made by Kate; second by Linda; so approved by all.
Joe said he would help with checking the second floor of the museum.

The meeting was closed at 3:50 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE: THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21 AT 2:00 P.M. at Bridge Academy.

Shari Lilly - Secretary