



## Old Lyme Historical Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 352, Old Lyme, CT 06371

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[www.OLHSI.org](http://www.OLHSI.org)

### Minutes

Board of Trustees, Monday, February 8, 2010

**Present:** John Flower, Dolores Green, Julia Griswold, Jennifer Hillhouse, Mark Lander, Patsy McCook, Alison Mitchell, Jim Noyes, Bill Stewart, Carol Winters, Karen Winters, Tim Griswold, Bob Dunn, Martha Hansen, Dyanne Rafal

**Excused:** Sousan Arafeh, Barbara Bair, Roger Breunig, Susan Griggs, Helen Scott, Tom Schellens

**Absent:** Judy Tooker

**Guests:** Michaelle Pearson, Ellis Jewett, Dick Bugbee

**1. Call to order:** Alison Mitchell, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.M. and welcomed the guests.

### 2. Approval of January 11, 2010 Minutes

The minutes were discussed.

Tim Griswold asked to have the attendance record corrected to show that he had not attended the meeting.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Dyanne Rafal, seconded by Mark Lander to approve the January 11, 2010 minutes as corrected. Motion carried unanimously.

### 3. Treasurer's Report - Carol Winters

January 1, 2010 through January 31, 2010

Opening Balance:	\$11,857.02
Income	
Donations	105.00
Book Sales	
Poverty Island	22 .00
Memberships	<u>225.00</u> (5 renew, 1 new)
Total Income	\$ 352.00
Expenses	
Clerical	258.75
Dues & Subscriptions	50.00
Newsletter	500.00
Rent	100.00
Sound View Beach Project	840.00

Training	80.00
Telephone	<u>62.99</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 1891.74
Ending Balance	\$10,317.28
Dangremond Fund Balance	\$ 169.52

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Mark Lander, seconded by Jim Noyes, to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **4. PGN Library Rent Increase: ACM**

As of July 1, 2010 the rent for the Society's office will increase by \$25 per month, for a total of \$1500 per year. The Library has offered to sell the Society's books at the front desk. The cost of renting other office space in Old Lyme was discussed, rents range from \$1,000 to \$2,000 per month. All of the office space in the Masonic Hall has been rented. The house at 38 Lyme Street is for sale for \$400,000.

**MOTION:** Bob Dunn made a motion, seconded by Carol Winters, to accept the rent increase and keep the Society's office in the Library. All present voted in favor.

#### **5. Board of Finance Meeting: Carol Winters, ACM**

Carol Winters reported that the OLHSI will receive \$3500 from the Town of Old Lyme, the same as last year. The Board of Finance is trying not to grant any budget increases this year. The Society may request additional funds for a special project, however.

#### **6. Proposed Budget 2010-2011: Carol Winters, ACM**

Carol Winters passed out a copy of the budget for FY 2009/2010 and the proposed budget for FY 2010/2011. The FY 2010/2011 budget did not include the office rent increase. Individual contributions were high in the current year because of some special donations. The Secretary of State's fee increased from \$25 to \$50 this year, and total expenses increased by \$325. Insurance decreased this year due to the Society having an office in a physical location in the Library, rather than just having a Post Office Box. Using Vonage as a telephone service was discussed as a way to save money.

**MOTION:** Karen Winters moved, and Bob Dunn seconded, to accept the budget as adjusted for increases in the rent and the Secretary of State's fee. All present voted in favor.

Carol Winters will present the budget next month with the adjustments included.

#### **7. Connecticut Humanities Workshop, Monday, February 1, February 8, New Haven: Oversubscribed**

The workshop was oversubscribed and the Society's check (\$80 to pay for two attendees) was returned. There will be another workshop in the fall.

The workshops are sponsored by the New England Museum Association and the CT Humanities Council and are about how to attract school groups, funds, and board member responsibilities.

#### **8. Wesleyan New Group Concert: Friday, February 26, 2010: Dyanne Rafal, Karen Winters**

Invitations have been mailed. Attendance is expected to be similar to last year's concert which was attended by about 75 people. Light refreshments will be provided by Coffee's Country Market. Tim Griswold agreed to work at the bar. The Society's books will be sold at the event, which is free to the general public.

#### **9. Peckham Family Civil War Letters Project: Jane Spangler**

Jane Spangler will attend the March 8 meeting to talk about the letters. The Society was given the letters by Jane Parr, of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. She contacted Bob Dunn through the Society's website. The letters involve the Peckham family, who were from Old Lyme. Fanny and Isaac Peckham are buried in the Duck River Cemetery. Burnham Carter transcribed and typed the letters. Alison Mitchell read one of the letters, which was about soldiers' deaths and burials.

**10. Progress Report Tour Guide Project, Jessica Bender: Martha Hansen**

Jessica Bender, the Society's intern from Connecticut College, will present the updated tour guide project at the March 8 meeting. The updated tour will be used to create a downloadable audio tour of Old Lyme Village.

**11. Progress Report: 2009-2010 Oral History Project: Sousan Arafah**

Mark Lander reported (for Sousan) that 26 people were interviewed at the first Oral History Day last fall. Kathy Rowe is almost finished transcribing the interviews. The next Oral History Day will be held Saturday, March 6, from 2-4 pm at the Senior Center. An interview training session was held in January at the Lyme Public Hall. Several people attended the session, including Mr. & Mrs. Fairleigh, of Niantic, who donated \$100 to the Society.

**12. Book Sales: Tom Schellens**

Tom Schellens did not attend the meeting. Mark Lander asked the Old Lyme Town Band if they would allow the Society to sell books at band concerts, and they agreed. Julia Griswold reported \$60 in book sales at the office. Karen Winters has set up a book display at Webster Bank, with books for sale. The Library has offered to sell books at the front desk.

**13. Newsletter – Patsy McCook, Susan Griggs**

Patsy McCook reported that 5,000 copies of the newsletter have been printed, and Carol Winters will pick them up and take them to the Post Office. They have already been sorted by route number. The newsletter features Jim Meehan's new design. The next newsletter will be published this summer.

**14. Update Potential Properties, Masonic Lodge Property, 20 Lyme Street and others: Tom Schellens, Tim Griswold**

This was discussed under item 4.

**15. Preserve America Grants – Martha Hansen**

Sousan Arafah and Barbara Bair have agreed to be on the Grant Committee. Martha Hansen reported that the Preserve America and Save America's Treasures grant programs did not receive funding this year. The Grant Committee will look into other sources for grants.

**16. Grange Scenic Backdrop Project: Jen Hillhouse, Jim Noyes**

Jennifer Hillhouse reported that a lot of work has been done on the project, which focuses on the backdrop printed in 1928, with local businesses advertised, and on the history of the Grange. There was a discussion about who should write the monograph, as John Stratton as said he does not want to do it. Lynn Wakeman, who has also done a lot of work on the project, is writing a book of her own. Jennifer Hillhouse suggested that perhaps Mr. Stratton would write it if he was paid.

**MOTION:** Jennifer Hillhouse made a motion, seconded by Jim Noyes, to offer John Stratton \$1,000 to write the monograph on the Grange and its backdrop. Three votes were cast in favor, eight votes cast against, and five members abstained. Motion failed.

Alison Mitchell asked if John Stratton would be willing to write an outline and have someone else edit it. Jennifer Hillhouse agreed to ask him and report back.

### **17. Staffing Genealogy Room: Julia Griswold**

The room is fully staffed for February, but volunteers are needed for March. Contact Julia Griswold if you would like to volunteer.

Office hours are Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

### **18. Winter Dinner Event: Bob Dunn**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Dinner Lecture “Indian Burial Ceremonies in the Lymes” will be held on Good Friday, April 2, 2010, at 6 pm at the Lymes Senior Center. Karen Winters and Bob Dunn will arrange for invitations to be sent out to the membership. Tickets will be \$30 for adults, \$22 for students. Bob Dunn will contact Doris Johnson to reserve the Senior Center.

### **19. Other Business**

**A.** The Society’s publication “Ancient Town” has sold out. A profit of \$617 was made on the first printing. Reprinting it will cost about \$1200 for 200 copies. Alison Mitchell will get pricing information for a smaller quantity from Sandy Beauvais.

**MOTION:** Jennifer Hillhouse moved, seconded by Bob Dunn, to authorize printing 200 copies for \$1200, or 100 copies for \$650. Motion carried.

#### **B.** Website update:

Work is progressing on the text and pictures are being selected.

**C.** Alison Mitchell reported that the American Association of Museums has announced that Federal funding for museum programs is to be cut. Alison will email the announcement, which contains suggestions for supporting museums and their programs, to all board members.

**D.** Jennifer Hillhouse reported that the State Legislature is considering removing the requirement to publish legal notices in print, and may require web publishing only. The change is designed to save towns money. Tim Griswold stated that Old Lyme spends at least \$50,000 a year publishing legal notices. Jennifer asked people to contact their representatives to discuss the situation.

**E.** Alison Mitchell passed around a poster commemorating the State Library WPA Project.

### **20. The next OLHSI Board Meeting will be Monday, March 8, 2010 at 4 PM in the Community Room, PGN Library.**

### **21. Adjournment**

Mark Lander made a motion, seconded by Bob Dunn, to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 pm. All present voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha C. Hansen  
Secretary