

## Historical Commission – Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, February 1, 2018

The Historical Commission met on Thursday, February 1, 2018 at Tyringham Town Hall. Present were Alice Hale (Chair), Ann Gallo, Mark Curtin, Nini Gilder, Maggie Howard, Peter Charpentier.

1. December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017 minutes were approved.

### 2. Updates

- a. Samplers – Peter reported the samplers will be ready by the second week of March. Delays have been because of the restorer's workshop issue.
- b. Conversation about Schoolhouse Heat – Carol Hardy-Fanta had concern regarding the ceiling heaters. Mark assured us that the heaters would be very safe and efficient. We are still waiting to hear about when they will be installed. Unclear as to what the town's current timeline is regarding the heater. Mark will ask the Selectmen at their next meeting.
- c. National Register of Schoolhouse – Nini stated there will be a review of the Historical Commission's application for the schoolhouse by February 21<sup>st</sup>. The timeline for getting this approved takes a while. Discussion ensued on having Tyringham declared a Historical District. Mill River, South Egremont and Lenox are working on this designation. It would be the Historical Commission's job to promote having Tyringham become a historical district.
- d. Tyringham Library is now officially on the National Register of Historic Places.
- e. Oral History Project – Ann Gallo reported that 15 tapes have been digitized to date. Alice Hale has been referenced many times in these tapes. Ann to meet with Judith Monachina regarding an oral history booth at the upcoming Tyringham Arts Festival this July 2018.
- f. Historical Commission officers - Discussion ensued on how to resolve the Historical Commission membership. The goal is to have the membership become seven. Several current members are willing to step down and become active members emeritus. Maggie Howard and Nini Gilder will be contacting these individuals.
- g. Schoolhouse Inventory – Mark Curtin will be starting to catalog schoolhouse items. There were questions on how we plan to preserve the leather items in the schoolhouse, similar to issues around samplers. Last inventory of historical items was done in 2002. The Kitson materials are inventoried and appraised and located in a Kitson box, not in the general notebook done in '02. There are many items not yet inventoried including the Canon box, many smaller items and Eloise Meyers items. Carol volunteered to assist Mark and do a spreadsheet. Plastic bins have been acquired to store the more delicate items. Mark spoke about the Town having purchased fire/waterproof file cabinets for various town offices. Should the HC consider something similar as items in the schoolhouse are not protected? Next step will be to attend a Selectman's meeting to begin conversations on the Town's plans for the Schoolhouse and Historical items sitting in limbo and in a precarious environment. Nini recommended we also investigate what other towns are doing with their historical materials. Mark Curtin will ask that the HC be placed on the Selectmen's February 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. Carol Hardy-Fanta will prepare discussion points.

3. Nini moved at 8pm to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mark Curtin.