

MEET ME IN SUNCOOK!
Minutes of Meeting
November 3, 2009

Present: Noreen Bean, Mariette Brissette, Jocelyn Carlucci, Ronald Daviault, Norma Daviault, James Garvin, Vincent Greco, Ingrid Lemaire (chair), Roger Menard, Larry Perron, Jan Shichkin, Shirley Sullivan

Also present were Regis Lemaire and Carol Martel, to speak about a proposed state historical marker commemorating Robert Frost's honeymoon.

1. Chair Ingrid Lemaire called the meeting to order at the old Pembroke Fire and Police Station at 7:07 p.m.
2. Because guests were present, the committee began the meeting with a discussion of the proposed state historical marker. Ingrid summed up former discussions of the subject (see Item 11 of the minutes of the meeting of October 6, 2009). Regis reported on the town's purchase several years ago of a lot between Buck Street and the Suncook River from the Girard family. This purchase had been intended as a small park commemorating the poet Robert Frost. Frost deeply loved wildflowers, and it was hoped that the park would be planted with wildflowers and could include a stone and tablet commemorating Frost. Carol continued by describing research that she and Claudette Verville had carried out to estimate the location of the camp where Robert and Elinor Frost spent their honeymoon. The camp was about two miles from Buck Street Island. It could therefore have been near Bombay Road to the north, or Clement Road to the south. Carol described several sources she had researched, including Lawrance Thompson's book, *Robert Frost: The Early Years*. Jim Garvin described the requirements for a state marker (including a petition requesting the marker), and reported that he had drafted a marker text (enclosed with these minutes). Larry Perron suggested inviting someone from the Pembroke Conservation Commission (possibly Ammy Heiser) to the January meeting to discuss the park and state marker proposals, as well as Claudette Verville.
3. The minutes of the meeting of October 6, 2009, were amended. Under Item 8, Noreen Bean and Gerry Belanger should be mentioned and thanked for helping to clean the town vault on September 7, 2009. With this correction, the minutes were unanimously approved on a motion by Jan Shichkin, seconded by Roger Menard.
4. Noreen Bean delivered the treasurer's report, as follows:

<i>Balance on October 6, 2009:</i>	\$4,044.94
Contribution from Mr. and Mrs. Kurt Liske	50.00
<i>Balance on November 3, 2009:</i>	\$4,094.94

Noreen noted contributions for this year total \$650 in addition to memberships, compared to \$595 last year, but membership income has declined from last year.

5. Ingrid noted that she had not received a reply to her letter to Associated Grocers requesting reimbursement for the cost of renting a second bus for the 250th Anniversary tours. In light of AG's continuing generosity, the committee agreed with Ingrid's suggestion that we not pursue the matter further.
6. Ingrid reported that the study of Emerson Mill, which *Meet Me in Suncook* had supported, had failed to materialize. Robert Fulmer of Portsmouth, the consultant selected by the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance, had not been met or given access to the mill roof by the condominium management company, and had learned that the company had employed their own consulting engineer. Upon hearing this, Mr. Fulmer offered some verbal recommendations for treatment of the building, and left the site. Jim Garvin will try to learn from the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance how any financial obligations to Mr. Fulmer were handled.
7. The committee discussed a request by the Pembroke Woman's Club reminding *Meet Me in Suncook* of Christmas in the Village, to be celebrated on Sunday, December 6th. Jocelyn mentioned that the annual cost of Christmas in the Village amounts to around \$4,000. *Meet Me in Suncook* donated \$100 last year, and \$200 the year before. On a motion by Dr. Vincent Greco, seconded by Mariette Brisette, the committee voted to donate \$500 in 2009. Jocelyn also noted that PAL (the Allenstown parent-teacher association) holds an event on the Saturday before Christmas in the Village, and suggested that the two events should be merged for greater economy and to attract more young people to Christmas in the Village.
8. The committee briefly discussed the need to plan our priorities for 2010, especially the scale of the art contest. It was agreed that we should make 2010 priorities a key agenda item of the January 2010 meeting.
9. Under *Old Business*, Larry Perron noted that new vinyl siding has been applied to the wooden portion of the former Town Line Printing building. He informed the committee that the building will be used as rental property.
10. Under *New Business*, Jocelyn Carlucci mentioned the opening of a new "Crazy Crow" antiques shop next to Tillotson's Antiques on Main Street.
11. Jocelyn also mentioned a conversation she had with Pembroke building inspector Everett Hodge regarding a sign or directory that might be placed on Pembroke Street to direct traffic to businesses in the village. Jocelyn mentioned such a sign in Allenstown, and suggested that downtown businesses could get together and rent the vacant half of that sign.
12. The committee discussed the \$1,000 donation that the Town of Pembroke has normally given to *Meet Me in Suncook*. After discussion, the committee agreed to ask for the money, which would then be returned to the town but earmarked for the Town Clock Trust Fund.

13. Ingrid discussed the Christmas party and suggested that it be held on Tuesday, December 8th at the Lemaire home at 9 Maple Street.
14. The next regular meeting (following the Christmas party on December 8th) will be on Tuesday, January 5, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. at the old Pembroke Fire and Police Station.
15. On a motion by Larry Perron, seconded by Jim Garvin, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
James L. Garvin
Recorder

Suggested texts for a double-sided state historical marker:

ROBERT FROST'S HONEYMOON

In the summer of 1896, aspiring poet Robert Frost (1874-1963) and his wife Elinor spent a belated honeymoon in a rented cottage near the Suncook River in Allenstown. Carl Burell (1864-1938), a high school friend and avid naturalist, was foreman at the Reuben C. Moulton box shop at Buck Street Dam. Botanizing walks with Burell awakened Frost to the natural world, coloring his later writings. Frost recalled these walks in a poem, "The Quest of the Orchis," published in 1901. Burell's injury in an 1896 mill accident later inspired Frost's poem, "The Self-Seeker."

568 characters and spaces

BUCK STREET MILLS

A bridge was built at this place, called "Buck Street," by the 1750s. Natural falls were dammed to power saw and grist mills before 1767. These uses continued through the 19th century, with the addition of a water-powered fulling mill for cleansing wool cloth by 1813, a bedstead shop by 1845, a spoke shop in the 1850s, and twine mills. By the 1890s, the dams powered Charles Fisher's axe and hammer handle factory and Reuben C. Moulton's box and trunk shop. Then known as East Pembroke, the area had a post office, store, blacksmith shop, houses, and workers' tenements.

573 characters and spaces