

MEET ME IN SUNCOOK!
Minutes of Meeting
October 22, 2019

Present: Pam Atkinson, Butch Ayles, Marie Ayles, Arthur Aznive, Noreen Bean, Gerald Belanger, Joyce Belanger, Melaine Boisvert (chair), Joan Bussiere, Jocelyn Carlucci, Dan Chase, Jackie Clark, Don Connor, Norma Daviault, Ron Daviault, Robert B. Farley, Pat Fowler, James Garvin, Robert O. Girard, Lorraine Good, Doc Greco, Arthur Monty, Larry Perron.

This was a special meeting that was called to report on the purchase of the Old Pembroke Fire and Police Station (Perry Eaton Building) at 6 Union Street by *Meet Me in Suncook* member Joan Bussiere, to discuss future projects for *Meet Me in Suncook*, and to discuss other business that might be brought before the meeting.

1. Chair Melaine Boisvert called the meeting to order at the Perry Eaton Building on Union Street in Pembroke at 7:07 p.m.
2. On a motion by Marie Ayles, seconded by Ron Daviault, the minutes of the meeting of May 14, 2019, were unanimously approved.
3. Noreen Bean gave the Treasurer's Report, as follows:

Checkbook balance on May 14, 2019:	\$5,364.52
Expenditures:	
Donation to Old Home Day (see Item 7 of Minutes of May 14):	\$300.00
Six-month rental of Suncook Post Office Box 1:	\$38.00
Membership dues, New Hampshire Preservation Alliance:	\$50.00
Income:	
Contribution from the Town of Pembroke:	\$1,000.00
Checkbook balance on October 22, 2019:	\$5,976.52

Noreen noted that she had continued to pay rent for Suncook Post Office Box 1. She also reported that she had not yet sent a reimbursement to Claudette and Armand Verville for their expenses on the Old Home Day float.

On a motion by Jim Garvin, seconded by Marie Ayles, the treasurer's report was unanimously approved.

Old business:

4. On a motion by Joyce Belanger, seconded by Norma Daviault, the committee agreed to send Claudette and Armand Verville \$200 for their expenses on the Old Home Day float, as we did in 2018, rather than the \$50 mentioned in Item 7 of the minutes of the meeting of May 14, 2019.

New business:

5. Joyce and Gerry Belanger handed out copies of a packet that reviewed the accomplishments of *Meet Me in Suncook* since its founding in 1999, gave the history of the Suncook Clocktower, summarized the Suncook Village Commercial and Civic National Register District which was designated under the sponsorship of *Meet Me in Suncook*, and included a *Meet Me in Suncook* membership form from 2007.
6. Chair Melaine Boisvert turned the meeting over to Joan Bussiere, who had just completed the purchase of the Old Pembroke Fire and Police Station (Perry Eaton Building) at 6 Union Street. Joan read a letter that she had written to the Pembroke Board of Selectmen in response to their inquiry as to why she was interested in ownership of the building. Joan expressed her lifelong affection for Suncook Village. She stated that she purchased the building, which was built by the Town of Pembroke in 1930 and had always been owned by the town, partly to protect it against unsympathetic renovation by a potentially insensitive new owner. She also wants to provide a secure meeting location for citizens of Pembroke and Allenstown, and intends to welcome organizations to continue to meet there.
7. The committee turned to a discussion of future projects for *Meet Me in Suncook*. These might include:
 - Offering assistance in getting Suncook Village designated as a stop on the Lafayette Trail. The Lafayette Trail commemorates the travel route followed by the Marquis de Lafayette during his tour of New Hampshire in 1824. Lafayette visited Caleb Stark at his home in Suncook Village.
 - Working with the Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission on their initiative to develop a trail network in the Suncook Valley. See:
 - <http://cnhrpc.org/suncook-valley-trails-plan/>
 - Exploring the development of a branch of the New Hampshire Heritage Trail through Suncook Village.
 - Encouraging the installation of Amoskeag-style street light fixtures along Glass Street to the double-deck bridge (a longstanding plan), along Main Street in Allenstown (discussed in prior meetings), or up Main Street or Broadway during a forthcoming betterment project.
 - Encouraging the placement of prominent signs directing people to Memorial Field.

8. Melaine reported that Brady Sullivan, developers from Manchester, are planning to purchase China Mill and convert it to residential units. The adjacent New England Buff building is intended to be rehabilitated to allow Perfect Fit Corporation, the present owners/occupants of China Mill, to continue their textile operations. Jim Garvin added that Armand Verville of the Allenstown Historical Society is searching for the location of the two belfries that were removed from the front stair towers of the mill around 2008.

If this project continues, it will transform the population and activity of Allenstown and Pembroke to a possibly greater extent than did the rehabilitation of Emerson Mill for residential condominiums.

Marie Ayles noted that the Pembroke Historical Society will host a mill history walk that will discuss the important manufacturing heritage of Suncook Village.

9. The committee discussed holding another meeting in November, partly to include planning for a Dutch treat Christmas dinner. On a motion by Marie Ayles, seconded by Joyce Belanger, the committee agreed to **meet at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 5 at the Perry Eaton Building.**
10. On a motion by Butch Ayles, seconded by Marie Ayles, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
James L. Garvin, Secretary