



SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR D.H.S ANNUAL MEETING, JUNE 28, 2015

Last Spring, a full meeting of all available Denmark Historical Society members was called for the purpose of selecting and electing a new board of directors. The new board was tasked to renew efforts to restore the structure, stability and goals of the Society.

Working with enthusiasm, collaboration and mutual respect, the newly elected board was soon able to identify priorities for the 2014-2015 year as well as develop an outline of necessary tasks to achieve their goals.

The Board's primary focus was to identify ways to expand the membership of the society and to develop activities which would appeal to the interest and involvement of fellow community members.

With this goal in mind, the board undertook several projects focused on outreach.

An initial plan was developed to write, assemble and distribute a newsletter. Perri Black was enlisted to assist in this effort. Perri proved to be an extraordinary help and was the primary author of the feature newsletter articles. Lee Ann and Terry provided additional content. All in all, it proved to be a strong group effort to bring back an informative newsletter.

As development of the newsletter progressed, it became evident that a permanent Logo / Letterhead was needed. Dianne Lewis offered her talent and designed several options. The board selected the sketch of the dam at Moose Pond.

Several other activities were also being undertaken.

JoAnne Harbourt, immediate past Secretary and Treasurer, was presented with a plaque by Gerry Burnell in recognition of her 5 years of outstanding achievement and contribution to DHS. Additionally,

Daryl Kenison was presented with a plaque in appreciation of his many years of leadership of DHS.

Lee Ann Shand did the legwork to reach an agreement between the Maine Historical Society and DHS. This agreement allows DHS to place its digital archives on their website for public viewing as well as for purchase by people interested in their content. Being part of the Maine Historical Society greatly expands the viewer awareness of DHS.

A By-Laws committee was formed in order to determine the need to update any Articles. Lee Ann and I identified several areas that we believe required revision and began work on rewriting specific portions of the by-laws. The revised document will be presented to the membership for consideration at the 2016 annual meeting.

Located just to the left side of the lower library entrance is a granite well cover. It was donated to the Society by Percy Lord many years ago, but only recently set up for display. In his honor and in recognition of his gift, a plaque was made and mounted by the cover.

As many of you may be aware, Ora Brine donated a millstone to the Town of Denmark. The Board of Directors felt that this millstone had historical significance and agreed that the Society should assist with the expenses related to its move to the park area directly across the street. DHS has arranged to have a descriptive plaque made and will contribute to its cost.

DHS also began participation in Amazon Smile, which allows people who purchase items on Amazon to allow a portion of the purchase price to be donated to DHS. (<http://smile.amazon.com/>)

The board also developed a revised structure of member & sponsor categories and related costs. They consist of an Individual Member fee of \$15.00 per year; A Family Membership fee of \$25.00 per year; A Life Membership: \$250.00 and Benefactor: \$500.00 or more. (This category would entitle the Benefactor to become a Life Member.) Members are entitled to 1 vote at annual and special meetings. The Sponsor fee is \$50.00. A sponsor is entitled to 1 year of advertising in DHS publications.

Throughout the winter, business meetings were held each month as work began on the development of the new Denmark Historical Society website. A great deal of time and planning was necessary for this detailed process. This site was 'rolled out' on June 18th and is now accessible to the public by typing in either denmarkhistorical

society.org OR denmarkhistoricalsociety.com. We urge you all to check out the site! It will continually be updated with new content.

During the past 12 months, the core work of the Society continued; collecting, cataloging, scanning and preserving both existing archival items and all newly acquired items. Lee Ann and Pat Largey diligently tended to these functions every Wednesday evening. No small task!

In closing, we wish to express our gratitude to Daryl Kenison, JoAnne Harbourt, Astrea Fatica, Cynthia Lee, Lyndsay Snow, and Jolene Snow for all their assistance and guidance! Additionally, we deeply appreciate Heidi Blake's support and commitment to DHS and her sponsorship of the Jo Radner performance today!

Respectfully Submitted,
Clare McKeagney