



**Minutes of the Simes House Foundation General Meeting
John Alden Club, Plymouth, MA
March 20, 2014 7:00 p.m.**

*These minutes are not verbatim, but are the secretary's interpretation of what took place at the meeting.
Minutes accepted at General Membership meeting June 19, 2014.*

Call to order: 7:07pm

Attendance: see sign in sheet attached

President's Report: Paul Williams has been elected to the BOD. Rick Welker has filled the vacancy of Treasurer. Five members were in attendance, 8 needed for quorum.

Vice-President's Report: Jim would like to acknowledge the Grants Committee and their work, as well as, thank Will for developing a budget for the year since it was a requirement for one of the grants applied for. The application for tax exemption for both the House and Park are in and waiting for a decision. We are looking into investing the \$90,000 endowment fund, that came with the 12/31/13 conveyance of St. Catherine's Park, to make the principle last longer. A dedication of the park is to be planned but no press release done yet.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Ellen states there is \$6,264.66 in the bank but \$5,000 (remainder of grant \$) cannot be touched. Electric bill was \$6.98. Insurance due 4/13/14 for \$607.78. Next bill due 5/15 for \$600 will be for taxes. Park balance is \$82,208.91. A Rockland Trust account was also open for the Park. \$27 was paid for the electric bill for the park. Rick Welker introduced.

Secretary's Report: last general meeting and December minutes need to be done.

Motion to table 12/12/13 minutes by Jeff, second by Paul. No discussion. Pass unanimously.

Confirmation of two new directors:

Rick Welker was with a roofing supply company out of Peabody, until the company relocated. He is now semi-retired. To keep active he continues as a CPA, and has offered his help with the 400th Committee. He has raised three boys through school.

Motion to ratify: to elect Paul Williams and Rick Welker as directors. Moved by Galen, second by Jeff. Passes unanimously.

Paul Williams was a journalist at The Patriot Ledger, and is now retired. He continues to work as a track and field official. He plans on helping out with the website. The work provided by Kim at KC Graphics has been appreciated.

Building Committee: Will continues to work with architects, Red Hawk Studios. Estimate came in over \$1.9 million. Wages were overstated by \$250,000. \$1.5 million is really needed. Looking into occupying the house as some capacity. Plans are 95% complete. He has kept in touch with Vareika to maybe do phase 2. Money still in reserve account. Don't want to lose builder. He met with Bruce Arons to discuss the affordable housing units. Units must meet basic requirements. Washer/dryer hookups must be provided but not in each unit. The foundation will be able to decide who rents, as the town will not want anything to do with the decision-making. Research has revealed for a one bedroom the maximum would be \$944 to charge for rent.

- Carol asked—what are the qualifications? Answer: It will be based on income.
- Paul recommends next BOD meeting to focus on this issue.
- The State sets the requirements, not the town. We may want to hire a management company or special agent to do background checks on potential renters as the burden will be on SHFI.
 - Randy—can Vareika work with the \$500,000 that we have? Add heat? Would this change the phases? Would like to use at least the first floor. Public is asking what is happening.
 - Barbara—will the 1st floor generate enough income?
 - Rick—could additional work encourage more funding?

Funding & Grants Committee: Margaret McSharry reports that two applications have been submitted, AD Makepeace (found via OCM) and Easter Bank (\$50,000, found via GrantWatch). The next meeting will be 3/24/14 where they will work on the Rockland Trust Grant. This grant's focus is on community involvement. Grants are needed for operational costs, but they are really not out there.

- Jeff suggested Home Depot, Lowes, Northeast Bank
- Rick suggested contacting S&S, CVS—ask customers if they want to donate \$1 to SHFI.
- Paul added that the sponsors on the website need to be revisited/updated.
- Randy would like to see membership application posted to Facebook.

Reminder emails to be sent to members two weeks in advance. More notifications needed for events. Publicize in OCM.

G & O: Galen would like to get water turned on, but still worried about frost. Tree needs water. Notify members of work on grounds and yard cleanup.

Events: According to Mary Ellen nothing is planned. Galen indicated that his wife Leslie is interested in helping with events. A membership drive is needed! Contribution letter to be sent to outstanding members.

History & Education: Barbara is working with Brian Powell, BCA. Paint vs. Wallpaper—what is really there? Looks like all paint. She has been in contact with Marion Petersen, 86 years old, lives in CA, her grandparents were caretakers of the house when it was a camp (1927-1945). Her grandfather used to make beer in the cellar. Is there another Joseph Simes house located off Strand Ave—57 or 65? Additional research is need on the deed. Still waiting to connect with Jen Yaeger at Manomet Elementary School

Marketing & Membership: This is lacking, hopefully new talent will be interested.

St. Catherine's Park: According to Jeff the signage will be completed by Easter. Cleanup will be needed after Easter, preferably a Saturday with a potluck to kick off the season! All members to be notified. SHFI sign to be included with existing signs to link House with Park. Permission is needed from Historic New England to use 1870 photo. Dedication of park to be publicized after Memorial Day weekend. Two trash barrels were removed from the park and the remaining was moved to the center to alleviate household trash dumping.

Other Business:

Additional volunteers/members stepping up for Events committee, including Margaret M., Linda, Barb. New ideas are needed.

Next meeting 6/19/14.

Motion to adjourn @ 8:55 pm by Paul, second by Jeff. Passes unanimously

Minutes submitted by /s/ Sandy King, Secretary