

Historical Society of Phillipston, Inc.

Thelma McMahon, President
Peter Richard, Vice President
Gerard Gariepy, Treasurer
Linda Langevin, Clerk

Business Meeting and Program

Date: April 27, 2011

Location: Congregational Church vestry

Time: 7:00 PM

Board Members Present: Thelma McMahon, Gerry Gariepy, Linda Langevin, Dave Bramhall, Jane French

Board Members Absent: Peter Richard, Les Dossett, Arnold Haley, Sally Kastberg, Karl Hakkarainen

1. The meeting was opened with the recitation of the pledge of allegiance followed by the reading of previous meeting's minutes by Clerk Linda Langevin. The previous program, "Got Milk", was held on March 16, but there was no quorum and no business meeting. Therefore, minutes were not taken for that night. The minutes that were read tonight were for the previous meeting of February 16th, 2011. These minutes were accepted as read.

2. The Treasurer's report was then given by Gerry Gariepy (see attached). The balance as of March 31, 2011 is \$24,479.94. Gerry noted that the 2011 Queen Lake Ice Out contest netted almost \$7000.00 in profit *after* the \$1000 prize was given out.

3. Mel Haughton then informed the attendees of the results of the Ice Out contest. She stated the grand prize winner of the \$1000 was Mark Mrvicin of Athol. The queen fell through the ice in the early morning of April 5, 2011 at 4:52:52 AM. Mel also listed the winners of the 16 additional prizes (see attached). She explained how this fundraising campaign was so successful when only two women were the major workers, obtaining sponsors' contributions and selling raffle tickets. The attendees applauded both of these women, Mel Haughton and Nancy McEwen, for all their time, effort and energy expended on behalf of the Society.

4. Thelma reminded the attendees of our next meeting which will be our annual meeting and pot luck supper which will be held on May 18th. The meal will begin at 6:30 PM followed by the meeting where many new officers and committee members will be elected. Thelma explained that after serving as president for the past five years, she will not be seeking re-election because she and Phil will be moving out of state. She invited whoever is interested to volunteer to be on the nominating committee which will compile a list of suggested officers.

5. Jane French informed the attendees that our museum will be opening for the season about June 1st. She stated that no one has come forward to display their family's artifacts. She is currently seeking photographs of as many Phillipston residents as possible which will be displayed in a map collage. Jane, who is also a member of the Phillipston Historical *Commission*, then informed us of the plans being made for the Town's 225th anniversary celebration. These include a fireworks display which will cost about \$7000. Souvenirs will be sold in advance to help raise funds to help pay for the fireworks. Jane continued to tell us about the full day of celebration planned for August 13th which will begin at 9:30 AM and end with a chicken barbeque around 7:00 PM. This day will be filled with continual exhibits, displays and events relating to historical events of the time 225 years ago.

6. A motion was made by Linda Langevin, seconded by Phil McMahon, to adjourn the business portion of tonight's meeting and proceed onto the program portion. This motion was carried unanimously and the business meeting ended at 7:40 PM.

7. Gerry and Carole Gariepy began their program, "*Phillipston, Then and Now*", which was produced and displayed in a very unique and interesting fashion utilizing two slide projectors. One projector showed pictures from notable areas in Town which were taken decades or centuries ago. The second projector simultaneously showed the same Town location but depicting it as it exists today. This fascinating presentation enabled the viewers to compare, contrast and reflect on the many changes that have occurred in the Town's history. For example, the image of the Town Common about 200 years ago is strikingly different from that of today. And, the "number one school house" was shown and compared with today's image of our town library which lovingly utilizes the same structure. Most town roads "of old" were made of gravel and these photos were contrasted with photos of today's paved roads. Other photos showed the former Methodist Church on State Road compared with today's use of the building as Phillipston's History Museum. Several notable homes built a century ago were shown with Gerry and Carole explaining that they burned down and were often replaced by other structures. Each historic picture prompted an intriguing explanation by the Gariepys.

While we thank Gerry and Carole for their presentation, we also note that appreciation also goes to Dick Hamel who helped in originally arranging this program.

The program ended at 8:10 PM and was followed by a fine selection of homemade refreshments.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Langevin, Clerk
Historical Society of Phillipston, Inc.