

Historical Society of Phillipston, Inc.

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

2011 Annual Meeting

Date: May 18, 2011

Location: Congregational Church Vestry

Time: 6:30 PM Dinner Started; 7:30 PM Meeting Started

Board Members Present: Thelma McMahon, Peter Richard, Gerry Gariepy, Linda Langevin, David Bramhall, Sally Kastberg, Karl Hakkarainen, Arnold Haley, Les Dossett, Jane French

Board Members Absent: none

Total people present: Approximately 30

Prior to the beginning of tonight's annual meeting, retiring president Thelma McMahon was given a corsage to honor her for the tremendous job she has done during her five year tenure as leader of the Historical Society.

1. Tonight's annual meeting of the Historical Society of Phillipston, Inc. began at 6:30 PM with a delicious pot luck dinner. At 7:30 PM the business meeting commenced.
2. At the completion of the dinner, the business meeting began with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Reading of previous meeting's minutes by Clerk Linda Langevin. The last meeting was conducted on April 27, 2011. The minutes were accepted as read.
4. The Treasurer's Report was given by Treasurer Gerry Gariepy. After expenses, the balance as of April 30, 2011 is \$23,654.94. Refer to the attached report for details. Gerry also informed the attendees of the generous \$500 donation given to the Society by Debi Shaw who has been a consistent benefactor to the Society.
5. On behalf of the entire Historical Society, President Thelma McMahon acknowledged the enormous amount of work performed by Emelda Haughton and Nancy MacEwen in raising over \$7000 for the Society by conducting the second annual Queen Lake Ice Out contest. A card of appreciation and a gift certificate were presented to Mel and her colleague Nancy. A round of applause also demonstrated the Society's sincere appreciation to these two devoted Society members.
6. A motion was made by Peter Richard, seconded by Gerry Gariepy, to give a \$200 contribution to the Phillipston Congregational Church in appreciation for

the use of their building for various Historical Society meetings and functions during the past year. This motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

7. A motion was made by Peter Richard, seconded by Gerry Gariepy, to give a donation of \$50 to the Phillips Free Public Library in appreciation for use of their building for occasional Society meetings. This motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

8. Thelma McMahon then informed the attendees of a new fundraising raffle which will begin soon. A very large and beautiful hand crafted quilt was displayed for all to see. This quilt was designed and initiated by Dot Malouin and finished by several Society members for the benefit of the Historical Society. Raffle tickets will soon be available for purchase in order to take a chance on winning this incredible work of art which is titled, "Remembrance".

9. President Thelma McMahon introduced several committee members who then presented their annual reports to the attendees:

a. Mel Haughton, Chairwoman of the Ways & Means Committee, expressed her gratitude to everyone who has helped in raising funds for the Society during the past year. The Ways & Means Committee is planning several fundraising activities for the upcoming year which were very successful in the past year. These include:

- another 120 Club
- Memory Tree Ceremony
- Queen Lake Ice Out Contest

b. Gerry Gariepy co-chair of the Building Committee gave the annual report of this committee by first stating how well our historical building functioned as a museum during the past year. He expressed gratitude to Gerhard Fandreyer for the wonderful work done on the building in the past which created an excellent museum out of a decaying church building.

Gerry then explained that the committee's current goal will be to work towards creating an addition to the museum in order to house an exhibition room for the very large antique egg incubator, a bathroom, kitchen, and curator's office. The museum will first need to install a well and septic system, and a heating system. Gerry explained that we will need to look for funding for this project by applying for grants, including that from the local Community Preservation Committee (CPA).

c. Curator Jane French then presented her annual report. She stated that the museum hosted 41 patrons last year in addition to the students of the 3rd and 4th grades of the Phillipston Memorial School, and the local Girl Scout troupe.

Jane is seeking volunteers to man the open hours of the museum this year and has made a sign-up sheet for this purpose. The museum will be open on Wednesday and Sunday afternoons. Last year 11 people volunteered to be museum hosts.

Jane also informed the attendees of the upcoming events being held in honor of the Town's 225th anniversary. The day of celebration on August 13, 2011 will be especially full of exciting and informative exhibits, demonstrations, historic re-creations, and barbeque. A fireworks display is also planned at a later time.

Jane credited Opal Clark and Terry Johnson for helping her organize these celebrations.

d. Kay Deans has been the chair of the Publicity Committee in the past year and explained what this committee has accomplished. She will be stepping down this year and expressed the need for more people to participate on this committee. She would like to see the "Tattler" newsletter resumed if possible.

Kay informed the attendees of the excellent job Karl Hakkarainen has done by redesigning and managing our web site. He has also created a Facebook presence for the Society.

10. Thelma McMahon was next in presenting her annual report. She noted that she has been president for the past five years but is now stepping down as she and Phil plan to move out of state. Thelma explained that tremendous accomplishments have been made during her tenure because of the dedicated people within the Society. She is pleased that she has been able to achieve the major goals she had set for herself in 2006 including:

- Phillipston's history is now in an excellent book: "*The Spirit of Phillipston*" written by Carole Gariepy, Jane French and illustrated by Joan Johnson.
- The Society received its first state grant of \$25,000 in order to help publish the book.
- The Society conducted its first major fundraiser which realized more than \$25,000 that went towards the restoration of the church building.
- The Society created the town's first museum of its history which is now open three seasons of the year.

Thelma stated that as she steps down, work will begin anew and she is confident we can ultimately create the necessary addition to the museum. She expressed her heartfelt gratitude to all the people who have been on her team which made the past five years possible. Thelma thanked Linda Langevin, Gerry Gariepy, Carole Gariepy + Stephanie Flynn, Mel Haughton, Karen Perkins as well as the Building Committee. She also thanked the "behind the scenes" people including Doug Wheeler, Dave Bramhall, Brian Langevin, and Pete Lyman. She will always be grateful and proud of the excellence produced by a small society in such a short period of time.

Thelma received a well-deserved standing ovation of appreciation and recognition by the attendees.

11. The next subject of business was the election of officers and committees for the upcoming year. Nominating Committee Chairman Gerry Gariepy spoke regarding his committee's recommendations as listed on the handout received by the attendees. Refer to the attached list for details. The list was read aloud and Thelma asked if there were any other nominations from the floor. Hearing none,

a motion was made by Linda Langevin to vote in favor of the recommended slate of *officers* as presented by Gerry Gariepy. This motion passed unanimously.

Gerry Gariepy then read his committee's recommendations for committee members (see attached). Thelma asked if there were any other nominations from the floor but there were none. A motion was made by Linda Langevin to vote in favor of the recommended slate of *committee* members as read by Gerry Gariepy. This motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

12. Linda Langevin requested the opportunity to speak and was given the floor. On behalf of the entire Historical Society, Linda proceeded to recognize Thelma McMahon for the amazing job she has performed as president during the past five years. An arrangement of flowers (in a patriotic motif) was presented to Thelma in addition to a customized picture and plaque which stated:

In appreciation of

Thelma McMahon

 for exemplary leadership
 during her tenure as
 President of the
 Historical Society of Phillipston
 from 2006 – 2011.
 Her wisdom, enthusiasm,
 and dedication
 made our museum a reality.

Linda Langevin went on to sincerely praise Thelma by acknowledging her tireless and inspiring leadership. Thelma has been a guiding star and mentor to so many of the Society's members. Thelma may believe she's just an ordinary person, but, she is an excellent example of **an ordinary person achieving extraordinary things.**

Dave Bramhall and Mel Haughton also spoke in appreciation of Thelma's successful leadership.

13. After a heartfelt round of applause for Thelma and her outstanding tenure, a motion was made by Leo Reponen to adjourn the meeting. This was carried by a unanimous vote and the annual meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Langevin, Clerk
 Historical Society of Phillipston, Inc.