

Town of New London Archives
Old Academy Building, 375 Main Street
New London, NH 03257-0240

**MINUTES OF THE NEW LONDON ARCHIVES COMMITTEE
December 10, 2008**

Present: Peg Moreland, Chairman; Doris Cutter, Joan McLean, Verne Barrett, Jim Perkins, Nancy Dutton; and Jessie Levine, Town Administrator

Review of Archives History and Status

The Archives' annual budget is \$1,000, of which about \$800 has been spent this year. The budget year begins each January 1. No new purchases can be made prior to their approval at Town Meeting. There is also \$3000 in the budget to purchase town historical items which might become available, but there is no revolving fund and no mechanism to receive donations.

Now would be a good time to review the history of the Archives Committee and whether there is a defined statement of purpose and goals. Materials were certainly collected and a committee formed for the 1929 Sesquicentennial, and a Town History Committee was established by 1949. The committee began erecting the town markers in the 1960s. Peg became Archivist in 1985.

Nancy will look into other town archives to see whether they have by-laws and what other entities are doing. Information about budgets would also be useful.

Discussions about developing our web site ensued. Jim suggested that we might begin by posting house and genealogical material on the site.

Election of New Officers

Jim Perkins was unanimously elected as new Chairman and Archivist.

Nancy will continue on as Secretary, and Doris will continue as Treasurer.

Because of Peg's many, many years of service (beginning when the Archives was still located in the vault in Tracy Library, through its moves to the Town Hall and now to the Old Academy Building), all felt that her work should be recognized by the Selectmen. Nancy will gather information for Jessie about Peg's work in preparation for the ceremony. The Committee is delighted that Peg will continue on as a member.

On-going work and research

Jim was able to obtain two books concerning the World War II posters.. One is an exhibition catalogue from a museum in London which contained posters from the first

World War to the present, including those from the U.S., Germany, and Japan. The second book was a Smithsonian publication on World War II posters, with information about the selection of artists and the Office of War Information. A Colby-Sawyer student, Kelsey Schieren, wants to use the Archives' posters as part of her capstone project. She is developing an audio track to go with the posters. She will use information from the letters "Happenings From Home," as well as information from the war time issues of Colby Junior College newspapers. Jim will be working with her.

Howard Hoke had offered to put occasional ads in *The Shopper* for the Archives. One idea was to contact the families who put together collages for the 1979 Bicentennial of New London display held in the Academy Building requesting that they loan the collages to the Archives so that the pictures can be digitized.

In the coming summer the theme for exhibits and lectures for the New London, Newbury, and Sunapee Historical Societies, the Fells, and the Lake Sunapee Protective Association will be "Then and Now."

Jim suggested that we might also initiate a photo contest, based on the "Day in the Life..." idea, focusing on New London. The photos could be exhibited at the New London Historical Society and ultimately kept in the Archives.

Nancy has answered a letter which came to Tracy Library requesting information about the MobileLab which Stuart Spaulding developed in New London in the 1960's. Doris found several articles about Mr. Spaulding and his work in the files.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Dutton