



Montgomery Historical Society
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MONTGOMERY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Minutes of Meeting
Public Safety Building, Montgomery Center

Wednesday, November 16, 2011 @ 5:30 PM

THESE ARE THE UNOFFICIAL MINUTES UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD.

Board Members and Members Present:

Board Members - Scott Perry, Bill McGroarty, Marijke Dollois, Sue Wilson, Elsie Saborowski, Tim Chapin, Parma Jewett, Ken Secor

Scott called the Meeting to order at 5:32 PM.

1. **Recognition visitors/guests:**

None

2. **This Month in Montgomery history:** MHS Birthday, Nov. 23, 1974 (37 years old), St. Isidore's Church consecrated Nov. 28, 1901.

3. **History Quiz:**

I. The current Pavilion Office Building next to the State Capitol and Supreme Court, houses State offices and the VHS exhibit "Freedom and Unity". This building was completed in 1971 and is essentially a modern building inside an exterior replication of the previous Pavilion Hotel. What was on the site before the Pavilion Hotel? **A tavern**

II. The dome of the Capitol wasn't always gold. What color was it?

a. Red b. Green c. Blue d. Silver

4. **Show and Tell:** Old Map and Town Report – Jay and Martha Shepard of Enosburg donated an early 1900 Survey map of the Montgomery area and a copy of the 1900 Town Report.

5. **The Main Event:**

Minutes:

Parma made a Motion, seconded by Ken to approve the Minutes of October 19, 2011 as written; Motion was unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer's Report – 11/16/11:

Checking balance	\$ 6,660.06
Lalia Pratt Hays CD	594.63
Stained Glass windows CD	5,787.18
Michael Domina Print S/A	707.93

No loan balance

72 Affinity members

Marijke made a Motion, seconded by Elsie to approve the Treasurer's Report of November 16, 2011 as presented; Motion was unanimously approved.

Sue made a Motion, seconded by Parma to deposit the proceeds of the sale of the Zack paraphernalia on e-Bay and donations received minus expenses (\$1,540.00) in a capital improvement account for the repair of the west wall. Motion was unanimously approved.

Membership:

Marijke reported a total membership to-date of 214 with contributions of \$11,260.00; the membership includes 6 honorary members, 14 new members, and 20 business partners.

Old business:

- A. Pratt Hall: Front entryway project update – the walls have been sanded and primed with a first coat of paint. Bill has sanded and painted the floor. Marijke asked to have the two corner posts encased – Ken suggested to use sheetrock which will be the simplest method and least expensive.
- B. Town History Book update – Jo Anne has had a personal setback with the health of her daughter and as a result has not been able to work on the book. She has a rough draft with some gaps where she needs help from the Board and/or membership.
- C. Review Events List – Scott was reluctant to have another Membership Appreciation event where the MHS provides food and wine. Several board members expressed the opinion if members were asked to bring food and wine, there would not be much of a response, especially considering the time of year. It was suggested to hold a Director's party as done in the past at Marijke's house where those invited bring a hors d'oeuvre and libation. (Note: The Board subsequently decided to hold a membership party at Pratt Hall with light refreshments and BYOB, see Events List below).
- D. LLHS Award and Annual Meeting Feedback – Five board members attended and had a great time. Sue mentioned that the State house and museum would be a great opportunity and learning experience for Montgomery students with plenty to see. Attached is a press release.
Scott attended a session on Training of Docents and he picked up some good ideas to help when the building is open during the summer.
Bill and Pat attended a Marketing session – see Pat's notes and thoughts attached.

E. 2012 calendar – to date 19 calendars have been sold. Parma & Scott are authorized to charge \$3.00/ea to defray the cost of printing. Parma is donating all the paper and binding.

F. Radar scope:

- 1) Teaching American History Grant
- 2) Domina print fundraiser update
- 3) Old maps project
- 4) Grant writing
- 5) VT History Expo (Civil War) – an entry fee of \$35.00 will be charged to members and \$60.00 for non-members
- 6) Ave Leslie Presentation – Spring ...TBD
- 7) Speakers: Spring...Tortolano and Bennett
- 8) Clayton Fuller artifacts/ephemera

6. **New business:**

A. Host CEA on Jan. 20th – the Board was supportive of the idea as long as Rebecca Cummins was aware there would be no water or toilet facilities. Marijke will be the MHS contact. Ken estimated the fuel cost for heating to be about \$30.00. Sue made a Motion, seconded by Elsie to approve the use of Pratt Hall by the CEA; Motion was unanimously approved.

B. New Board members – Sue suggested Patty Perl who is now a Montgomery resident and Parma suggested Frank Wirth who owns and has upgraded the former D&D Deli building. Both will be asked to join.

C. Scott has printed and distributed MHS business cards with logo, contact information and names of all Board members.

D. Scott provided a brochure of the Franklin County Barn Quilt Trail – quilt patterns are painted on 4x4 plywood and have been attached to buildings in the Franklin County towns. Sharon Perry has asked permission to do one to be attached to the Heaton house. The Board approved the request.

E. Scott and Suzanne Dollois have established a page on Facebook with the goal to reach a wider audience beyond our regular mailing/membership list. The Board did urge caution for any unwanted contacts.

F. Scott, Pat and Marijke attended the Regional Historical Societies Meeting in Richford on Wednesday, November 9th. The Meeting was well attended by several other Franklin County societies and Grand Isle. The next Regional Meeting will be in Enosburg in the spring.

7. **Adjourn:**

Ken moved a Motion, seconded by Bill to adjourn at 6:52 P.M. Said Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Marijke M. Dollois

MHS 2011 Dates
As of: 11/16/11

December 16th Friday, Membership Holiday Gathering, Pratt Hall

December 17th Saturday, 1 – 4 PM Open House, Pratt Hall

December 18th Sunday, 6:30p.m., Carols and Candles, Pratt Hall

Press Release sent to County Courier and St. Albans Messenger

Montgomery Historical Society Wins Preservation Award

Nov. 4, 2011. The Montgomery Historical Society was recognized by the Vermont Historical Society and League of Local Historical Societies for excellence in Historic Preservation at its annual meeting held November 4th at the State capitol in Montpelier.

The preservation project addressed structural restoration of the timber-framed, lower section of the gothic tower of Pratt Hall, a former Episcopal Church built in 1835 in the heart of Montgomery Village.

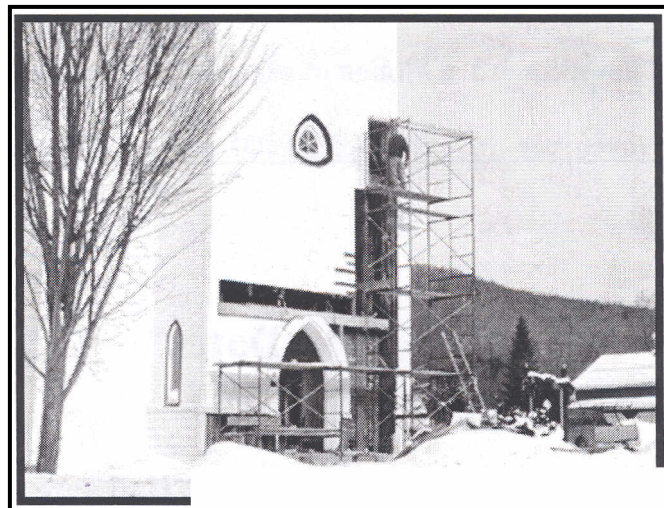
It also included unanticipated structural work, and restoration of gothic architectural details to the exterior of the tower's front façade, returning the building to its circa 1875 appearance.



Circa 1875 Appearance

July 2011

"Initial analysis indicated about \$15,000 of work was needed to the bottom sill, joists and vertical studs of the tower" said MHS Chairman Scott Perry. "A grant of \$7,500 was received from the VT Div. for Historic Preservation in June of 2010 and the Society raised the matching amount. Once work began more serious structural problems were soon discovered."



Restoration In Progress

The Society received additional grants from the Eastman Charitable Foundation, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the TD Bank Affinity Membership Program. The remaining balance was funded by Society membership dues and special contributions. St. Onge Construction contributed demolition and debris removal of the front steps, Lutz's Automotive provided plowing of the work area, and Society volunteers cleaned and removed construction debris, constructed new steps, and made minor interior repairs.

In making the award, the VHS said ""The scope of the project, and commitment to the careful quality workmanship despite the hurdles encountered is inspiring. It is evident that your society realizes and greatly appreciates the treasures within your community."

"Likewise the generous support by our members and the community shows we value the preservation of our common heritage" Said Perry. Pratt Hall is open by appointment. More information is at www.montgomeryvt.us/mhs.htm.



Vermont Historical Society Executive Director, Mark Hudson presents Montgomery Society Board members Scott Perry, Pat Farmer, and Bill McGroarty with an award for Excellence in Historic Preservation.

Marketing workshop notes

This workshop covered some marketing basics. The presenter, Jane Campbell, based much of her presentation on what she referred to as the "Four P's"; Product, People, Place and Price. She added a fifth P with Perception.

Under the heading Product she asked some pertinent questions:

What does your organization offer?

What's unique about your offering?

Who's your competition and how are you different?

What are the two top reasons someone would seek you out?

This really hit me. Yes we have Pratt Hall, but ...

What *DO* we offer?

What do we *HAVE* to offer?

How do we offer it?

MHS was founded to save Pratt Hall from destruction and to maintain and conserve it, but how many people seek us out to see and appreciate it?

We have a small collection of Montgomery related artifacts, but little facility for exhibiting them and who in the community knows that we have such?

What *IS* our product?

From Jane's marketing point of view "perception is reality". So what is the community's perception of MHS? Is it Pratt Hall the building? Is it Banjo Dan, etc.? Is it the Art Show? Is it Candles and Carols? Or is it a bunch of stuffy people who collect old junk and fool around with a musty old building that's about to collapse on them shortly?

I did have one positive thought that brought me back out of the doldrums. It is an *ONLINE* exhibit of some of our more interesting artifacts with an invite to come see the real thing. This could be presented along several themes, such as the mills, the civil war, bridge building, life and times 100 years ago, etc.

The other P's deserve attention also such as what audiences do we want to focus our attention on, but the above is what really struck me.