

**Cumberland Historical Society  
General Membership Meeting  
18 October 2018  
Town Hall**

**1. Call to order:** The annual general membership meeting was called to order by Brian Jensen, Vice Chair, at 7pm. A quorum was present as dictated by the new bylaws approved in September 2017.

**2. Attendance:** Brian Jensen, Lynda Jensen, Nancy Latham, Laura Willis, Margie Gruber, Tom Gruber, Kathy Kenny, Bill Kenny, Martha Morrison, Laurie McQuarrie, Catherine Wright, Joanne Fryer (left before voting).

**3. Presentation...Relocation of Cumberland Historical Society (CHS) Structure:** Bill Shane, Town Manager, gave an overview of the town's proposed plan to relocate the historical society building and connect it to the Prince Memorial Library. Mr. Shane had previously presented this proposed concept to the CHS Board of Directors last March and again at the town Finance Committee meeting in May. Members of the CHS Board were present at the Finance Committee meeting. At the July meeting, the CHS Board voted by majority vote to support the concept with one abstention (Nancy Latham).

Mr. Shane explained that the current building, which the town owns and maintains, requires over \$100,000 in repairs and it's not cost effective to sink any more funds into the structure. Moving the structure and using a part of it to recreate a classroom would help fulfill the CHS's mission to educate the community about Cumberland's historical heritage and preserve the town's artifacts and documents. The building would be adjoined to the library with a connector space that could be used for CHS administration/genealogy research/display space. The new space/classroom could be open more than the 20 hours per/month that the CHS is open now. The library is open 44 hours per week. There would be more parking available at the library and the new space would have security surveillance, climate controlled storage, and display space that the current facility is lacking. The new sidewalk being constructed now on Main Street would provide easy access to the Library from the school campus.

The town has a buyer for the lot (Sevee and Maher Engineers), who would use the space for their needs. The estimate of the lot could be from \$80-100K. The town will be hiring an appraiser. Mr. Shane noted the move could be planned for late next summer or early fall with the CHS being "homeless" for 5-6 months while a new foundation is being dug and the building is being moved and reset/rewired, etc.

Moving the building should be relatively easy per Copp Movers; it's estimated it would cost between \$15 -20K. The building will need to be structurally upgraded and include climate control and more modern HVAC system prior to re-occupying. This cost could be over \$150,000.

Mr. Shane envisions a capital campaign starting up this fall. The town will hire someone to manage the capital campaign and the Bicentennial Program (2021). It could be a 2-5 year plan depending on what the architect's cost estimate is. The final project estimate is between \$300 and \$400K. The Merrill and Sweetser trusts could be used by the CHS to purchase display cases/furnishings and for leasing storage space. The trusts would not be used to fund the move/annex to the library and would be held as a contingency. It was noted that moving the building turns the vacant lot into taxable property for the town.

Mr. Shane foresees the relationship between the CHS and the Town (Library) much like the relationship the town has with the Cemetery Association...the Town provides support and the Cemetery Association moves forward with their BOD supported programs/services. It would be no different than the current set up that exists between the CHS BOD and the town now. The annex/classroom space would NOT be under the control of the Town Librarian.

A working group led by a Town hired architect would be formed with representation from the CHS once planning starts...much like the planning that went into the Fire Station.

An application for a Community Block Grant and other grants will be submitted.

Joanne Fryer volunteered that her farm could be used for a fundraiser.

Nancy Latham mentioned that in her research there may be restrictions on the land that was bequeathed to the library. Mr. Shane noted that research would be done before the project is initiated.

**3. Vote:** A motion was made to support the town's vision to move the CHS structure to the library and annex it with common space that includes CHS administration/genealogy research/display space. The vote was unanimous with one abstention (Catherine Wright). Per the Bylaws, one telephone vote (S. Willis) and 2 electronic votes were accepted (Fulda/Small).

***Post Meeting Note: In agreement with the Town Manager, in the future the project will be called the "Historical Society Renovation Project" or HSRP for consistency in grant applications and documentation (i.e. minutes, etc.).***

**4. Annual Reports by Chair of the Board and the Curator.** The Curator report is included in the October newsletter; the Chair's report will follow in the November newsletter.

**5. New Slate of Board of Directors.** No nominations were made from the floors, so the slate was approved unanimously with one abstention (Cathy Wright) as presented: Deb Dugas, Linda Fulda, Judy Gagnon, Margie Gruber, Sandy Nickerson, Kathy Kenny, Martha Morrison. Per the bylaws, the Board will appoint the Curator and between themselves decide what positions will be filled by each Board Member (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and 3 Directors-at-Large). The Board will be contacted by Linda Fulda, the current Chair, to set up a transition meeting.

**6. Thank-you.** The membership thanks outgoing board members, Brian Jensen, Nancy Latham, and Pete Wilson for their contributions to advance the CHS mission this past year.

**7. Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8pm by Brian Jensen.

Submitted by:

Margery Gruber  
CHS Secretary