MEET ME IN SUNCOOK! Minutes of Meeting April 5, 2016

Present: Jo-Ann Bélanger, Joyce Belanger, Gerald Belanger, Melaine Boisvert (co-chair), Joan Bussiere, Jackie Clark, James Garvin, Jeanne Letendre, Larry Perron.

- 1. Co-chair Melaine Boisvert called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.
- 2. The Minutes of the December 3 meeting were approved unanimously with the following corrections: "Jean Letendre" should be "Jeanne Letendre," and "JoAnn Belanger" should be "Jo-Ann Bélanger."
- 3. Noreen Bean was not present, but soon after the meeting sent the following the Treasurer's Report:

Checkbook balance on December 3, 2015:	\$5,913.50
Income:	
Donation from Donna Earnshaw in memory of her father, Bob Wells	500.00
Donation from Joan Bussiere	500.00
Donation from Kurt and Margaret Liska	100.00
Total Income:	\$1,100.00
Expenses:	
Fee to Secretary of State re non-profit status	\$25.00
Bank service charges for January & February	
(new charges on business accounts):	4.00
Total Expenses:	\$29.00
Checkbook Balance on April 5, 2015:	\$6,984.50

Noreen also noted that she recently received a bill in the amount of \$500 (the same as last year) from Foy Insurance for our 2016-17 liability policy, which is due on May 1 and which Noreen will pay soon.

Noreen also noted that at the beginning of 2016 the bank began to charge \$2.00 per month on business accounts that do not have on-line access to the account. Noreen would prefer not to have the *Meet Me in Suncook* account on line.

- 4. Due to Noreen's absence, there was no update on the vault contents.
- 5. Membership dues of \$15.00 for 2016 will be payable beginning at the May meeting.

Old Business:

- 6. The selectmen in both towns are favorable to the proposed Amoskeag street light fixtures for Glass Street and Main Street in Allenstown. Gerry Belanger asked how we should coordinate with the Allenstown board of selectmen. Jo-Ann Bélanger reported that she had spoken to a representative of WESCO regarding the availability of Amoskeag light fixtures and was unable to locate a source of these fixtures. Jim Garvin has also been searching for Amoskeag fixtures without success.
- 7. The committee discussed the LED lights for the clocktower. Melaine reported that the fixtures will be installed in two to three weeks, and *Meet Me in Suncook* will receive the bill, which was estimated in December at \$3,420 (8 fixtures—2 on each side, lift rental, labor, and delivery of the lift).
- 8. Jo-Ann Bélanger reported on the Castle in the Clouds project. Although interviews with Suncook natives wintering in Florida proved impossible, interviews with Roger Menard and people in Manchester, Berlin, Colebrook, and Rochester have been completed. The committee is now looking for pictures. The exhibit at Castle in the Clouds will include 25 to 30 panels and the committee is getting photographs from the families of those who were interviewed, and also from Congolese French speakers.

Jo-Ann talked with Ron Daviault in Florida, who suggested that *Meet Me in Suncook* continue to do interviews and gather pictures for our own archives, independently from the Castle in the Clouds effort.

The Castle in the Clouds program begins on Saturday, May 7, with the opening of the exhibit, titled "French Speaking Culture in the Granite State." The exhibit will be on view through July 16 and will honor Thomas Plant, the original owner of the estate, by exploring the history and impact of Franco-Americans in New Hampshire from the nineteenth century to today. Admission to the exhibit is free.

On May 18, Castle in the Clouds will host an academic symposium, "French Speaking Culture in the Granite State," from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Speakers will include Dr. Katharine Harrington, associate professor of French at Plymouth State University; Dr. Mark Richard, professor of history and Canadian Studies at the State University of New York (SUNY) at Plattsburgh; and Robert Perrault, faculty member at Saint Anselm College and author of "Franco-American Life and Culture in Manchester, New Hampshire: Vive la Différence."

Castle in the Clouds will host a free gallery reception on Friday, June 3 at 5:30 p.m. The scholars who helped to create the exhibition will be on hand to answer questions.

New business:

- 9. The committee discussed the following goals for 2016:
 - Increase membership.
 - Continue interviews on French culture and decide when and where to do them. Jo-Ann suggested that we might set up our own channel on You Tube. We could download interviews from I-pad memory cards to this channel and re-use the memory card for

further interviews. The channel could be made accessible only to those with a *Meet Me in Suncook* access code.

Melaine suggested that we do interviews on the Tuesdays when we normally meet, but start at 6:00 rather than 7:00. She suggested that we start by meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 3 and develop our own questions on memories of Suncook Village, bringing photographs to stimulate questions We might then begin formal interviews in June.

- 10. The next meeting of *Meet Me in Suncook* will be at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 3, 2016 at the old Pembroke Fire and Police Station.
- 11. On a motion of Gerry Belanger, seconded by Jim Garvin, the meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, James L. Garvin. Secretary

MEET ME IN SUNCOOK! MAILING LIST

Mail minutes to those printed in red.

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