

Minutes - Stow Minutemen Annual Meeting – 1/11/2014

In attendance: Bob Stokes (President), Ryan Hayward (Vice President), Jeff Needle (Treasurer), Katy Needle (Clerk), Linda Stokes (Sgt. Quartermaster), Rick Lawson (Sgt. Armourer), David Walrath (Ensign), Bonnie Brench (MusicMaster), Matthew Brench (co-MusicMaster)

Jenn Siegel, Kate Miller-Vickers, Rob Caponi, Craig Shomp, Cara Shomp, Matthew Schomp, Christine Boutin, Moira Macdonald, Larry Leonard (guest speaker from Sudbury MM)

Noting that we have the required 1/5 quorum of members the meeting was called to order at 10:35 AM.

Sudbury Live Shoot

Larry Leonard of the Sudbury Minutemen took a few minutes to talk about the live shoot that they conduct annually and to recommend that our members who are interested in muskets attend. The cost is under \$10, and more details will be sent as the event nears. Larry's contact information is metalmechanic@yahoo.com. Larry also mentioned that this year's Sudbury Faire will be a huge affair with many corps, and will as always be held the final Saturday in September at the Wayside Inn.

Vote in New Members to Active/Voting Status

Full membership: Kate Miller-Vickers, Paul and Jenn Siegel
Associate Membership: Cindy Fontaine (youth member)

Vote was moved and seconded. All approved unanimously.

Officer Reports:

Captain Bob Stokes:

Stow Encampment had lots of drive-by traffic but very few stopped. Thoughts on increasing attendance included:

- Approach local history teachers to tie the event to the curriculum for extra credit
- Advertise more in local papers and other venues
- Move location to upper common (not supported due to parking and logistics)
- Make an attempt to again overlap with Maynard Fest, the Stow Lions Flea Market, and the various craft fairs as well as the apple orchard traffic and advertise our encampment as part of a larger "Spend the day in the area" initiative.

Overall the event was a good first run and well worth trying again.

Old Manse - Despite the cold and rain, the event was popular, highlighted by the delicious Queen's Cake. Old Manse staff were delighted to have us and we continue to have a standing invitation to return. The attendees were enthusiastic and this continues to be a good recruiting opportunity as well as a welcome addition to the Old Manse experience. Proposed for Memorial Day, but we are very busy then. We will aim for a larger event later in the year but may also do a smaller event on the Sunday of labor day. They also remain open to an overnight encampment.

Educational Series in Stow – to raise local awareness, we should consider hosting some events like speakers on the history or relevant colonial topics. Rick suggested his tavern talk and a fashion show

was also mentioned.

Battle at Collings Foundation (Craig Schomp) – Craig has been working with Bob Collings and the reenacting community to raise interest in a large battle scenario at the Collings Foundation. Suggestion was to have a small event this year as a trial balloon, with the Collings Foundation being the host and several companies working with them on logistics. If the event is promising this year, we can enlarge it for the 2015 season and leverage it as part of a larger 50th anniversary celebration.

Clothing Workshop – It was suggested that it would be very helpful to do another sewing workshop and Sgt. Quartermaster Linda Stokes agreed to coordinate it on two consecutive weekends on February 22 and March 1. The purpose would be to provide guidance on making colonial accountrements for our kits. Linda recommended Sewfisticated for materials due to their wide selection, availability of wools, leather, and linen, and reasonable prices. Sewfisticated is located at 136 Howard Street in Framingham Center in the former location of The Fabric Place (<http://sewfisticated.com>).

Cooking demonstration – there is some interest in doing a cooking demonstration, possibly in conjunction with an event in Townsend or possibly locally.

Bike Race – The Minuteman Road Club hosts a race at the Bolton Fairgrounds and in the past have extended an invitation for us to attend, shoot muskets to start races, and be available for photo opportunities. There is interest in doing this again this year, but not as an organized company event.

River's Edge Concert participation – River's Edge Community Band, Chorale and Youth Chorus based in Hudson has asked us to provide musket support for their performance of the 1812 Overture on June 18th (Wednesday evening). Contact is Danielle Moskowitz (dmoskowitz@upwitharts.org), 978-562-1646.

50th Anniversary of The Stow Minutemen – We should consider having a large event or series of events to celebrate our 50th anniversary. A committee was formed consisting of Linda Stokes, Rick Lawson, Ryan Hayward, Jenn Siegel, Craig Schomp, Jeff Needle, and Bob Stokes. It was suggested that we also reach out to Don Rising and Bob Derby, the first two officers in 1965 and invite them to join the committee.

Sgt Paymaster Jeff Needle:

Current Bank Balance: \$13,181.91 less \$1,293.66 outstanding and \$220.26+\$48.48 from 2012 lost/reissued. Actual balance: **\$11,888.25**. Income was \$4,390 and expenses were \$4,287.99 for a net profit for 2013 of **\$102.01**.

Income: \$4,390.00

- Parades and Events: \$3850
 - Newton: \$600
 - Bunker Hill: \$1000
 - Boylston: \$750
 - Needham: \$900
 - Bolton Fair: \$600
- Dues: \$520
- Donations: \$20

Expenses: \$4,287.99

Black Powder + Containers	\$200.03
<u>G</u> ear (\$700 for fly)	\$919.18
<u>F</u> ood for encampments	\$527.71
General Liability <u>I</u> nsurance	\$500.00
Web site hosting	\$71.40
<u>M</u> usic Instruction Stipend	\$250.00
<u>M</u> usical expenses (drum repair)	\$100.00
"Other"	\$375.75
Scholarship (Eliot)	\$587.92
Trail March	\$756.00

2014 approved budget:

(Note: the 2014 budget was proposed, but the actual vote took place at the end of the meeting to allow for any adjustments for issues which came up after the paymaster's report)

2014 Budgeted Income	\$4,370.00
Dues	\$520.00
Parade Fees	\$3,850.00
 2014 Budgeted Expenses	 \$6,046.40
Advertising	\$100.00
Black Powder	\$150.00
Company non-musical supplies	\$300.00
Encampment Expenses - e.g. food	\$800.00
Insurance	\$500.00
Internet	\$71.40
Musical Instruments	\$1,200.00
Music Instruction Stipends	\$250.00
Other	\$600.00
Scholarship	\$1,175.00
Trail March to Concord	\$900.00

Sgt. Armourer Rick Lawson

Very limited rounds left. Biggest usage of powder: Trail March, Memorial Day & July 4th parades. Most possible Men-at-Arms with today's membership: 12 / Average: 4-5 per event. Rick will send out a notice of a cartridge rolling party in late February or early March.

Sgt. Lawson reinforced that safety is everyone's responsibility and if anyone sees unsafe behavior of any sort, they should bring it up to him or the captain or the event organizer.

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Quartermaster Linda Stokes:

Second fly purchased in 2013, which gives us more space and flexibility at encampments. Huzzah to Ryan Hayward for making stakes for the new fly and saving us lots of money.

We could use a couple of larger tables to accomodate our demonstrations at encampments.

Musicmaster Bonnie Brench:

6-10 musicians attending weekly practices, which are every Thursday at Hale School during the school year and Town Hall during the summer. Two beginning fifers and one beginning drummer attending lessons.

Will be giving Peter a \$250 travel stipend again to defray his travel expenses.

Drummers: We have two drummers, but one cannot do parades. We also have a beginner drummer, Lily, who will hopefully be added to the drum line this year.

Fifers: We are pleased to have a new fifer, Cindy, who comes to us from 4-H F&D for advanced fife lessons, and will join us for events that do not conflict with her 4-H events.

We have three snare drums in need of new beater heads, ropes, and probably ears. Jeff called Coopermans and got a rough estimate of around \$1050 to repair all three. Some alternatives were discussed.

Vote on 2013 slate of officers:

Bob Stokes – Captain / President
Ryan Hayward - Lieutenant / Vice President
Jeff Needle - Sgt. Paymaster / Treasurer
Rick Lawson - Sgt. Armorer / Safety Officer
Linda Stokes - Sgt. Quartermaster
Jenn Siegel - Sgt. Adjutant / Clerk
Bonnie and Matthew Brench - Music Masters
David Walrath - Ensign

Sgt. Paymaster Jeff Needle appoints Corporal Jeff Needle as webmaster for 2014.

Scholarships:

One scholarship was awarded during the 2014 season (Eliot Littlefield). The review board will remain the same for 2014 (Rick Lawson, Linda Stokes, and David Walrath).

2014 Event Calendar:

Bedford Pole Capping ~ Sat. April 12th 10am (captain/adjutant)

Stow Annual Trail March ~ Mon. April 21st @ 4:45am (captain/adjutant)

Battle Road Heroes ~ Sat. April 26th @6:00 PM (Musicmaster? Amelia?)

Wm. Diamond Muster ~ Sat. May 3rd (musicmaster)

Center School event ~ Date to be determined (Linda)

Stow Springfest ~ Sat. May 17th (usually the third weekend in May) (captain/adjutant)

Newton Veterans Parade ~ Sunday, May 18th 2pm (**\$600**) (captain/adjutant)

Flag Placement at Lower Village and Hillside Cemeteries, Saturday, May 24th (Jeff)

Boylston Memorial Day Parade ~ Mon. May 26th 10am (**\$750**) (captain/adjutant)

Stow Memorial Day Parade ~ Mon. May 26th 2pm (captain/adjutant)

Townsend, June May 30-June 1 (Ryan)

Bunker Hill Parade, Sun. June 15 (**\$1000**) (captain/adjutant)

Boxboro Fifer's Day events ~ Sat. June 21 (captain/adjutant)

Needham Parade ~ Friday, July 4th 9 AM (**\$900**) (captain/adjutant)

Old Sturbridge Village Rebels and Redcoats Encampment ~ Aug. 1st, 2nd, 3rd (captain/adjutant)

Bolton Fair ~ Aug 8th, 9th, and/or 10th (captain/adjutant)

Sudbury Colonial Faire ~ Sat. Sept. 27th (musicmaster)

Old Manse – Sunday of Columbus Day weekend (captain/adjutant)

Stow Encampment (date TBD) (captain/adjutant)

Battle Road Heroes ~ Sat. Oct. 4th (and 21st?) (Musicmaster? Amelia?)

Maynard Christmas Parade ~ Sun. Dec. 7th (always the first Sunday in December) (captain/adjutant)

OSV Christmas by Candlelight - December weekend evening (date to be determined) (musicmaster)

2014 Annual Company Meeting ~ Sat. Jan 10th (tentative) (captain/adjutant)

Paid events in **blue**. Major music events in **red**. Important company events in **bold**.

Notes: While Battle Road Heroes is listed above, it is no longer a Stow event. Amelia will coordinate again this year. Springfest and Newton parade dates still need to be confirmed.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 PM.