

Minutes
Stow Minutemen Annual Meeting – 1/10/2015

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

Rob Caponi, Kate Miller-Vickers, Marcie (and Lily) Weber, Amy Brown, Johnny English, Craig Schomp, Cara Schomp, Dave (and Rosa and Matteo) Walrath, Christine Boutin

Noting that we have the required 1/5 quorum of members the meeting was called to order at 10:30 AM.

Vote in New Members to Active/Voting Status

Full membership: Marcie Weber, Johnny English

Associate Membership: Lily Weber (youth member)

Vote was moved and seconded. All approved unanimously.

Officers' Reports:

Captain's Report – Bob Stokes

2014 overall:

2014 was a successful year with adequate turnout at all events – we even managed to have a drummer at every event. However, we desperately need more drummers!

Bunker Hill:

This is always a difficult event to get people to, as it's usually Fathers' Day weekend, and the parking situation is not enticing. Gaspee Days in RI, which Stow used to attend, is around the same time and the question of switching to that and skipping BH was raised. However, BH is our most highly paid event, and it's unsure if Gaspee could pay as much – would the better day (Saturday) and the ease of parking make up for that?

Tentatively decided that Jeff will inquire as to whether Gaspee can afford us, and if so, consider Gaspee Days for **2016**.

We will attend BH for 2015, ideally with a non-costumed layperson following with a wagon full of water, as it tends to be a very hot parade.

Trail March:

The TM was a bit of a scramble as not only was part of our normal route under construction, but it was also brought to our attention that crossing the MBTA tracks was illegal and could be disastrous for the future of the group should anything happen. A new route was planned to avoid the construction and the

tracks, and overall it went over well. One spot of the new route had impatient drivers, but with the police escort it wasn't too bad, and ideally this year we can have an officer at the front and an officer at the back of the marching line to assist with angry drivers.

The new breakfast spot was ideal, as it had real bathrooms, though those aren't to be counted on as they're not yet open to the public that early in the year so we're at the mercy of the guy with the key remembering to unlock them. Having the port-o-potties also along the route was a good backup.

We'll continue using the new route this year, mainly to avoid the MBTA tracks. Jeff will contact the Concord police to make sure they get the memo that the route is different from the past 20-something years!

50th Anniversary:

This is the year of our 50th anniversary! Anyone with old pictures of the group through the years should send them to Jeff or Ryan so we can get them online. Anyone with contacts to any previous members should reach out and pass along the contact info. So far we know that our first Captain, Don Rising, is willing to be involved. We definitely will have a party this summer to celebrate.

Paymaster's Report – Jeff Needle

Our bank balance is up \$673.74 from last year, due largely in part to Bolton Fair paying us \$1200 for our 2014 participation.

Actual account balance: \$12,561.59.

A couple of costs increased last year:

- PO box went from \$60 to \$62
- Trail March breakfast cost \$217.75
 - This highlights the generosity of the Sheff family providing breakfast for many previous years
 - Also, thanks to Mary Ann, Ann, Katy, and Rick for organizing the breakfast!

Our income came from:

- parade fees - \$4450.00
- membership dues \$460
- And this year we had a \$35.00 donation.

Our expenses came from:

- scholarships awarded - \$1155.36
- Trail March – 973.75
- insurance - \$500
- encampment costs (food) \$473.26
- musical instruments - \$433.03
- musical instruction stipend - \$250

- other (including black powder, internet costs, donation for Ralph) - \$486.26

Proposed 2015 Budget:

Income:

- Dues: \$480 (14 families @\$30 + 4 individuals @\$20)
- Parades: \$3850
 - Newton: \$600 (event uncertain)
 - Needham: \$900
 - Boylston: \$750
 - Bunker Hill: \$1000 (our highest paid parade)
 - Bolton Fair: ~\$600 (our highest paid event)

Total Budgeted Revenue: \$4340

Expenses:

- Advertising: \$100
- Black Powder: \$150
- Non-Musical Supplies: \$300 (gear)
- Encampment Expenses: \$700 (food)
- Insurance: \$500
- Internet (web site): \$71.40
- Musical Instruments: \$800 (drum repair + \$100)
- Music instructor stipend: \$250
- "Other": \$200
- \$60 for PO Box
- \$18.50 for Annual Report filing
- Scholarship: \$0 (no eligible candidates)
- Trail March: \$1000
- Dee Bus: \$175 (up from \$160 in previous years)

- Port-o-Potties: \$250
- Police Detail: \$336 (up from \$210 in previous years)
- Breakfast: \$250

Total Budgeted Expenses: \$4071.40

Income - Expenses: \$268.60

Budget voted on at end of meeting – see later in the minutes.

Anniversary Party Expenses:

- PARTY!! - depends on the venue! Possibly the pavilion at Stow Park? Maybe Town Hall? Food likely a combo of catered main dish and BYO side dishes.
- Commemorative coins – probably around \$700 for 2-sided coins @~\$3/coin
- T-shirts – likely \$7-15 shirt, 50 shirts or so

Armorer's Report – Rick Lawson:

We used a fair amount more powder in 2014 – approximately 9-10lbs. We have about 1.75lbs left over, and about 40 cartridges left (held by Bob). We get about 80-90 cartridges per pound of powder, and we use close to 100 rounds per parade on average. Ideally we can get about 10lbs more of powder to add to the supply, at about \$20/lb.

We need to drill more often – definitely at the Trail March, but we should also add drill practice throughout the year. Having it at the same time as the music practices might be good – could have it outside if it's nice out, or inside the Hale caf if not.

It'd also be nice to have a cartridge rolling party – maybe at the same time as a sewing bee.

Remember, safety is EVERYONE'S job! If you see something, tell an officer!

Quartermaster's Report – Linda Stokes:

In 2014, wax was the biggest expense – people like to make candles! We spent \$120.39 on wax. Jas. Townsend has gotten pretty expensive, so wax was bought through amazon – nice that it came in easier-to-melt pellets, slightly sad that it's white and not yellow. Perhaps a beekeeping supply company might be a good source?

We also bought a new shovel to replace a broken one, and picked up more wood charcoal.

We held one sewing bee in March that had light attendance, but was fun so it'd be nice to do at least one more this winter/spring. The Town Hall can now be used on Saturdays again – combining it with a rolling party would be great.

No planned unexpected expenses for 2015 – we have a good supply of loaner clothing thanks to a nice

donation from the Maloneys. Maybe making a few generic pieces at a sewing bee couldn't hurt.

Music Master's Report – Matt Brench:

We bought the drum parts to repair the two drums – one is done, but Jim wasn't happy with the result despite the drum always having had issues, so he didn't charge. The other drum is ready to be fixed.

We are having a DRUM CRISIS. Due to Becca Brench's pregnancy, we're down to really only 1 drummer, and he's a young child so isn't ready to be a sole drummer. Joanna Brench will be home during May so will be around for our Memorial Day parades, and we can hopefully count on Jeff Stokes as well if needed, but we're in a tough spot otherwise.

- Can we poach someone from William Diamond?
- Can we borrow/pay for a drummer from another group?
- There was a teen from Townsend that was interested – Ryan will contact
- Can we talk to the local high schools to see if they have anyone interested?
- There was a very interested family at Springfest – Craig will contact

Despite this crisis, try not to worry – the music membership has always been cyclical and we're just in a low point now, but it's bound to have an uptick again.

Vote on the 2015 Slate of Officers:

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

Current slate minus Sgt. Armorer carried.

Runoff election for Sgt. Armorer resulted in a tie vote. Decided that Rick would continue in position with Craig being appointed Corporal.

Budget Vote:

Budget as proposed above approved, with the following changes:

Advertising: \$200 (up from \$100 last year, unspent)
Black Powder: \$200 (up from \$150 last year)
Encampment food: \$750 (up from \$700 last year)
Musical Instrument repair: \$500

And a new one-time budget line item was added, 50th Anniversary Celebration with a budget of \$2500.

Calendar Vote:

- Bedford Pole Capping ~ Sat. April 11th 10am (captain/adjutant)
- Stow Annual Trail March ~ Mon. April 20th @ 4:45am (captain/adjutant)
- Wm. Diamond Muster ~ Sat. May 2nd (music master)
- Center School event ~ Date to be determined (Linda)
- ??? Stow Springfest ~ Sat. May 16th (usually the third weekend in May) (captain/adjutant)
- ??? Newton Veterans Parade ~ Sunday, May 17th 2pm (\$600) (captain/adjutant)
- Flag Placement at Lower Village and Hillside Cemeteries, Saturday, May 23rd (Jeff)
- Boylston Memorial Day Parade ~ Mon. May 25th 10am (\$750) (captain/adjutant)
- Stow Memorial Day Parade ~ Mon. May 25th 2pm (captain/adjutant)
- Old Manse – Memorial Day weekend (captain/adjutant)
- Bunker Hill Parade, Sun. June 14 (\$1000) (captain/adjutant)
- Boxboro Fifer's Day events ~ Sat. June 20 (captain/adjutant)
- Needham Parade ~ Saturday, July 4th 9 AM (\$900) (captain/adjutant)
- 50th Anniversary Party target July 25, backup July 26.
- Old Sturbridge Village Rebels and Redcoats Encampment ~ July 31, Aug. 1st, 2nd (adjutant)
- Bolton Fair ~ Aug 8th or 9th (captain/adjutant)
- Sudbury Colonial Faire ~ Sat. Sept. 26th (music master)
- Stow Encampment (~ Columbus Day weekend (including overnight) (captain/adjutant)
- Maynard Christmas Parade ~ Sun. Dec. 6th (always the first Sunday in December) (captain/adjutant)
- OSV Christmas by Candlelight - December weekend evening (date to be determined) (music master)
- 2015 Annual Company Meeting ~ Sat. Jan 9th (tentative) (captain/adjutant)

2015 calendar approved.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15pm.