

2016 Stow Minutemen Annual Company meeting

January 9, 2016

Attendees:

Bob Stokes (Captain/President)
Ryan Hayward (Lieutenant/Vice President)
Jeff Needle (Paymaster/Treasurer)
Linda Stokes (Quartermaster)
Rick Lawson (Armourer/Safety Officer)
Craig Schomp (Armourer/Safety Officer)
Dave Walrath (Ensign)
Bonnie Brench (Musicmaster)
Rob Caponi
Thomas Johnson
Bethany Bartolini
Cara Schomp
Matthew Schomp
Steve Balzac
Alex DiPietro

10:35 – Call to Order

With 40 active voting members, a quorum of 8 was required and present and the meeting was called to order at 10:35.

10:35 - New Members

Thomas Johnson was voted in as a new member
Ellis Jones was voted in as a junior member

10:44 - Captain's Report

The captain reviewed the events of the 2015 season, including:

Review of the 50th Anniversary Celebration (Ryan to write thank you note to Dorcas Sefton for use of the venue)

No interest in doing a Stow encampment, so the event was not planned for 2015 and won't be considered for 2016.

At Old Manse 3 times this year. Our encampments are very successful and appreciated by the Old Manse. Craig Schomp raised awareness that a park ranger had some concerns about our presence / appearance and was going to raise the issue with the Old Manse, who are not affiliated with the park but are encircled by it.

Bunker Hill - difficult to park, which cuts back on attendance, and it frequently conflicts with Father's Day. This year we might consider doing Gaspee instead.

Good year at OSV. Our location was very favorable and we would like the same location next year if possible.

Bolton Fair was again our highest paid event at \$1200, so an increase in our participation numbers is encouraged to provide more crafts and better coverage.

11:00 - Scholarships

After a discussion about scholarships, it was decided to budget \$1000 for this year to allow for up to two applicants. We also discussed upping the scholarship from \$500 to \$750 but it was decided that we will keep it the same.

11:05 - Paymaster's Report

2015 Cash flow was positive. Our current balance is \$14,341.29. There is a \$250 check still outstanding.

We were well under our budgeted cost for the 50th Anniversary Party due to a reduced scale for the events. We exceeded our income due to another generous Bolton Fair payment. Everything else was as expected.

Cash Flow - 01/01/2015 to 12/31/2015

Stow Minutemen Income: Donations	\$ 96.00
Stow Minutemen Income:Dues	\$ 560.00
Stow Minutemen Income:Parade Fees	\$4,650.00
Total Money In	\$5,306.00

Stow Minuteman Expenses:2015 50th Anniversary expenses	\$1,221.38
Stow Minuteman Expenses:Black Powder	\$ 189.48
Stow Minuteman Expenses:Company non-musical supplies	\$ 191.55
Stow Minuteman Expenses:Encampment Expenses - e.g. food	\$ 354.92
Stow Minuteman Expenses:Insurance	\$ 500.00
Stow Minuteman Expenses:Internet	\$ 71.40
Stow Minuteman Expenses:Music Instruction Stipends	\$ 250.00
Stow Minuteman Expenses:Other	\$ 84.50
Stow Minuteman Expenses:Trail March to Concord	\$ 913.07
Total Money Out	\$3,776.30

2015 Profit:	\$1,529.70
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Drum Repairs for \$585 were agreed upon in 2015 and completed, but we have not yet received the invoice, so this item has been moved to the 2016 budget.

Our internet provider has not been great so we voted to up the 2016 budget to \$100 in case a change is needed.

2016 Budget:

Stow Minutemen Income	\$5,210.00
Donations	\$ 0.00
Dues	\$ 560.00
Parade Fees	\$4,650.00
Stow Minuteman Expenses	\$5,315.00
Advertising	\$ 200.00
Black Powder	\$ 200.00
Company non-musical supplies	\$ 580.00
Encampment Expenses - e.g. food	\$ 750.00
Insurance	\$ 500.00
Internet	\$ 100.00
Musical Instruments	\$ 585.00
Music Instruction Stipends	\$ 0.00
Other	\$ 200.00
Scholarship	\$1,000.00
Trail March to Concord	\$1,100.00
Budgeted Profit/Loss:	\$ 5.00

11:14 - Armourer's Report

Purchased 7 pounds of black powder this year and used 4-5 pounds. We currently have 3+ pounds in stock. No rounds are currently rolled. If we roll what we have, it should yield around 250 rounds. Need to plan a rolling party soon. It was suggested that maybe this could be coupled with a kit review and/or a sewing bee.

Craig will research powder storage limits.

Budget of \$200 for 2016 should be adequate.

11:28 - Quartermaster Report

	2014	2015
Wax and wicks	\$120.39	\$116.36
Hearth Shovel - replace broken Stokes shovel	\$ 24.00	
Charcoal	\$ 17.95	\$ 19.99
<u>Kitchen Equipment</u>		<u>\$ 54.50</u>
Total	\$162.34	\$190.85

High usage of wax and wicks, but this is one of our big activities at our encampments. Some kids like to make giant candles. It was suggested that we keep a candle holder or lantern with the candle making as a guide to how large to make candles.

There is interest in having a sewing bee. Now is the time to review kits and order or make what is needed for the new season.

11:41 – Music Master's Report

The fifes and drums continue to meet every Thursday for free lessons for anyone who wishes, followed by a group practice with everyone.

Our drum repair project, in summary, was begun in 2014 on 3 of our snare drums and is now finally complete. All needed parts were purchased and the first drum was completed that first year. The second drum was found too warped to be reparable, so the Company voted to replace it with a new drum at an additional cost of \$585. This new drum is now complete and ready for pick-up. Payment has been carried forward to 2016. The third drum was sent in for repair in late 2015 and is now complete at no further cost.

Stow's adult snare drum inventory now consists of 3 functional old drums and 1 good quality new one. We also have 3 youth-size snare drums (one is not period correct), 1 adult bass drum, and 1 youth bass drum.

Our parade readiness continues to be a challenge with our dwindling members. We presently have 6 active fifers and 2 drummers, all with busy schedules. We usually can muster only one drummer, and once we were forced to find a stand-in drummer for one of our parades. Recruitment is vital if we are to continue fielding musicians.

There was discussion about purchasing a new drum for the purpose of revitalizing our drum line and perhaps attracting an experienced drummer or two. Bonnie volunteered to look into our options for purchasing a second new snare drum; a new one from Cooperman would be just under \$900. We could probably get one for less, and we might wish to sell our one oversize drum to reduce the overall cost.

12:08 - Ensign's Report

Professional cleaning of the red flag will cost around \$30. This flag is an important piece of our company history and should be properly cared for, so the funds were approved. Additionally, the company could use another flag for children to carry. The ribbon pole is unpopular and we could use an alternative. Funds up to \$100 were approved to purchase a new flag.

Older ribbons should be archived and all of our ribbons should be scanned for our records.

12:21 - Officer Elections

Captain / President	Bob Stokes*
Lieutenant / Vice President	Ryan Hayward*
Sgt. Armourer / Safety Officer	Craig Schomp
Sgt. Adjutant / Clerk	Thomas Johnson
Sgt. Paymaster / Treasurer	Jeff Needle*
Sgt. Quartermaster	Linda Stokes*
Ensign	Dave Walrath*
Music Master	Bonnie Brench/Matt Brench*

* = Candidate for Re-election

Webmaster (appointed) Jeff Needle

Slate of officers approved unanimously.

12:25 - 2016 Events

Jeff to check with Boylston about increasing our reimbursement to be more in line with other events.

The following company events list was unanimously approved by the membership.

Bedford Pole Capping ~ Sat. April 9 10am (captain/adjutant)
Stow Annual Trail March ~ Mon. April 18 @ 4:30am (captain/adjutant)
Wm. Diamond Muster ~ Sat. May 7 (music master)
Center School event ~ Date to be determined (Linda)
Stow Springfest ~ Sat. May 21 (usually the third weekend in May) (captain/adjutant)
Old Manse – Memorial Day Weekend – Sat May 28 @ 10:30 (captain/adjutant)
Newton Veterans Parade ~ Sun, May 22 2pm (\$800) (captain/adjutant)
Flag Placement at Lower Village and Hillside Cemeteries, Sat, May 28 (Jeff)
Boylston Memorial Day Parade ~ Mon. May 30 10am (\$750) (captain/adjutant)
Stow Memorial Day Parade ~ Mon May 30 2pm (captain/adjutant)
Gaspee Day Parade ~ Sat June 11 (\$1200?) (captain/adjutant) *need to confirm*
Bunker Hill Parade ~ Sun. June 12 (\$1000) (captain/adjutant) *need to confirm*
Boxboro Fifer's Day ~ Sat June 18 (captain/adjutant)
Needham Parade ~ Mon, July 4 9 AM (\$900) (captain/adjutant)
Old Sturbridge Village Rebels and Redcoats Encampment ~ Aug. 5, 6 + 7 (adjutant)
Bolton Fair ~ Aug 13th and/or 14 (captain/adjutant) (~\$1200)
Sudbury Colonial Faire ~ Sat Sept. 24 (music master)
Old Manse ~ Columbus Day weekend - Sat October 8 @10:30 (captain/adjutant)
Stow Encampment ~ (date TBD) (captain/adjutant)
Maynard Christmas Parade ~ Sun. Dec. 4 (first Sunday in December) (captain/adjutant)
OSV Christmas by Candlelight ~ December weekend evening (date TBD) (music master)
2017 Annual Company Meeting ~ Sat Jan 14, 2017 (tentative) (captain/adjutant)

Other Events

Craig Schomp noted that he re-visited the idea of a weekend encampment at the Collings Foundation. He has received favorable replies from multiple units. He will report back as he learns more.

Craig recommended that the company purchase a company loaner musket. We will revisit this next year. Meanwhile, Craig will research the liability.

Briefly, Ryan Hayward touched on several other area events that were taking place if members of the minuteman group want to join in individually.

1:00 - Budget Approval

The 2016 budget as detailed above was approved unanimously.

1:08 - Vote to Adjourn