

## **Minutes - Stow Minutemen Annual Meeting – 1/14/2012**

**In attendance:** Bob Stokes (President), Ryan Hayward (Vice President), Jeff Needle (Treasurer), Linda Stokes, Amelia Rogers, Rick Lawson, David Walrath, Rob Caponi

Noting that we have the required 1/5 quorum of members, the meeting was called to order at 10:45 AM.

Arrived after start: Arch Owen, Aparna Borrowes, Deb Owen

### **Vote in New Members to Active/Voting Status**

Full membership: Mary Ann Lawson (unanimous)

### **Officer Reports:**

*Sgt Paymaster Jeff Needle:* Balance at end of 2011 (including outstanding checks) is \$7308.19. Loss for year was **\$2070.99**. \$878.70 was payments against prior years, leaving a negative cash flow for 2011 of **\$1192.29**. We also received unanticipated non-recurring donations of \$470.

We are expecting a \$700 Mass Cultural Commission grant, which Ryan Hayward applied for in conjunction with the Medford event. If that comes in, our operating loss for 2011 will be reduced to **\$492.29**.

We awarded three scholarships, which is the most we've ever awarded in any year, and more than we expect to award for at least the next three years.

We need to consider ways to cut expenses and/or increase revenue to at least break even in future years.

*Musicmaster Amelia Rogers:* Our biggest challenge is to increase membership so we have an easier time fielding critical mass at events.

Suggestion: Amelia has been working with Acton musicians – we do not have many events that overlap, so we could consider calling on them to augment our numbers when needed and consider reciprocating for their events.

Amelia mentioned that Acton charges \$5/person for lessons. When students have to pay a nominal fee for the lessons, they are less likely to blow them off. Food for thought for Stow.

Invitation extended to Stow musicians to come to Acton lessons, which are Thursday nights at Danny's Place in Acton. Attending lessons in Acton does not obligate us in any way to participate in their events.

Music recruiting ideas: Ads/calendar in local paper and on TV (Adjutant), recruiting video for TV and events, present to local high school bands.

*Quartermaster Linda Stokes:* Clothing supplies are plentiful of late due to donations, although low on

waistcoats. These are now \$100 through Jas. Townsend.

Planned expenses for 2012 are \$60 for a third wash tub, \$17 for a lid lifter, and \$87 for a copper pot.

Discussion of a couple of company gatherings to discuss/critique our kits, discuss various personas to help people participate more at events, sewing meeting to make some garments, roll cartridges.

### **Vote on 2012 slate of officers:**

Bob Stokes – Captain / President  
Ryan Hayward - Lieutenant / Vice President  
Jeff Needle - Sgt. Paymaster / Treasurer  
Phil Shoemaker - Sgt. Armorer / Safety Officer  
Linda Stokes - Sgt. Quartermaster  
Joanna Brench - Sgt. Adjutant / Clerk  
Bonnie Brench - Sgt. Music Master  
David Walrath - Ensign  
Vacant - Websmith

The slate of officers was approved unanimously. Joanna is expected to step down as adjutant in August. Successors are invited to apply and encouraged to overlap her tenure – contact any of the officers for details.

There were no candidates for webmaster. Duties will be handled by Jeff Needle and Ryan Hayward on a best effort basis.

### **2011 Season Review:**

Hartwell Tavern was reduced to one day, and we were not allowed to bring in vehicles, making it difficult to cart in gear. We would like to do this event again if it includes an overnight, but if it's just a day event, it may not be worth the effort. Rick to follow up with Jim Hollister on 2012 plans. While what we offer to the public seems to be quite popular, it may not be what the park wants. They seem to prefer militia and open air sleeping (no tents), although perhaps they will permit us to sleep in the barn, which will be renovated by then.

Old Sturbridge Village featured a different location for us this year, over by the schoolhouse. We did not have adequate space and our neighbors from Lebanon overspread their area. It was off the beaten path and cut down significantly on visitors. For next year, we need to request more space, in a more central location, and potentially not to be next to Lebanon as they are not ideal neighbors.

OSV Christmas by Candlelight was enjoyed by everyone who participated in it and we would like to participate again in 2012. Repertoire should be expanded to include more Christmas music.

### **Scholarships**

2011 scholarships of \$500 each were awarded to Alana Toabe, Brittany Owen, and Lacey Kremer. The 2012 scholarship committee will consist of Linda Stokes, Rick Lawson, and Jeff Needle, although we do not anticipate having any scholarship candidates.

## **2012 budget**

Anticipated Income:	<b>\$2750.00</b>
Dues	\$450.00 (expect \$480)
Medford Encampment	\$150.00 (should continue to bring profit – Thanks, Lt. Hayward!)
Parade Fees	\$2150.00 (Needham: \$900, Boylston: \$650, Newton: \$600)

Anticipated Expenses:	<b>\$3796.40</b>
Advertising	\$200.00
Black Powder	\$125.00 (expect \$75)
Company non-musical supplies	\$300.00 (expect \$200)
Encampment Expenses - e.g. Food	\$1200.00 (expect \$600)
Insurance	\$500.00
Internet	\$71.40
Musical Instruments	\$100.00
Other	\$600.00 (expect \$448)
Scholarship	\$0.00
Trail March to Concord	\$700.00 (expect \$690)

Anticipated 2012 Operating Loss: **\$1046.40**

Jeff to approach Newton and Boylston to raise parade fees. Budget adjusted to reflect new dues.

Voted to raise dues from \$10/person and \$20/family to \$20/person and \$30/family. Unanimously passed. This is the first time we have increased dues in many years. 2012 dues are payable any time prior to the trail march.

Budget proposed by Jeff, seconded by Linda, passed unanimously.

It is anticipated that expenses for black powder, encampment expenses, advertising, and non-musical supplies will be lower than budgeted and reduce the anticipated deficit. We budgeted for worst case scenarios, but anticipated actual values are listed if possible.

Summary of 2012 expected cash flow: Parade income will be at least \$2150. Dues will be \$480 at current membership levels. Recurring predictable expenses are \$500 insurance, \$71.40 internet, and \$690 trail march costs. Anticipated equipment purchases of around \$175 (budget is \$300), black powder probably around \$75 (budget is \$125). PO Box is \$48 and 501(c)(3) filing would be \$400 (out of \$600 “other” budget). Our largest variable expense over the past few years has been encampment food, which can be around \$350-\$400 per encampment (budget is \$1200, but we always budget that high). If we stay near those numbers, we should be close to even for the year.

## 2012 Calendar of Events:

Bedford Pole Capping - Sat. April 7 10am  
**Stow Annual Trail March** - Mon. April 16 4:45am  
Battle Road Heroes - Sat. April 21 6:00 PM (Tentative)  
**Wm. Diamond Muster** - Sat. May 6  
**Center School event** – Date to be determined  
**Stow Springfest** – Sat. May 19  
**Newton Veterans Parade** - Sun. May 20 2pm  
Hartwell Tavern Encampment - Sat. May 26th and/or Sun. May 27 ???  
Flag Placement at Lower Village and Hillside Cemeteries - Saturday, May 26  
**Boylston Memorial Day Parade** - Mon. May 28 10am  
**Stow Memorial Day Parade** - Mon. May 28 2pm  
**Gaspee Days** (proposed) - June 9, 2012  
Boxboro Fifer's Day - Sat. June 23 (4th Saturday in June – date needs checking)  
**Needham Parade** - Wed. July 4 9 AM  
Old Sturbridge Village Rebels and Redcoats Encampment - Aug. 3, 4, 5  
**Bolton Fair** - Aug 10, 11, 12  
**Sudbury Colonial Faire** - Sat. Sept. 22  
**"First Patriots" Medford Encampment** - Date to be determined – one day event?  
Battle Road Heroes - Sat. Oct. 6  
Maynard Christmas Parade - Sun. Dec. 2  
**OSV Christmas by Candlelight** - December ???  
**2013 Annual Company Meeting** - Sat. Jan 15 2013 (tentative)

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

MCV Junior workshop will be March 3.

Look into adding another paid parade. Gaspee Days was suggested since they approached us and it is well recognized as a fun parade and part of a bigger event that members should enjoy attending. It is only a 75 minute drive, so just a little further from Stow than OSV.

We discussed adding the Thanksgiving Day parade in Plymouth. Some members have participated in the past and given it good reviews, and it would be a paid parade. We will discuss this more as it gets closer.

We have been approached to set up a booth at the Bolton Fair. This is a great recruiting opportunity (suggestions: show video of our activities, have recruiting flyers available, some crafts, some music).

Continue trail march discussion that was begun after last year's march. Need volunteers for small committee to follow through on actions (i.e. Create flyer detailing history and recruiting info, expectations of non-colonial marchers, liability, etc). Volunteers should contact Jeff Needle.

**Other Business:**

Discussion of ways to more equitably share responsibilities at encampments. Will be conducted on mailing list due to low attendance at company meeting and need for a wider audience.

Recruiting was widely discussed and a committee was created which is led by Arch Owen. Members consist of Arch Owen. Anyone else interested in helping with recruiting should contact Arch Owen. Some good suggestions made, such as a video showing us in action (music, encampments, demos) which can be shown at various events, as well as on Stow TV. Advertising in paper, outreach to schools (bands, rod and gun clubs, other ideas?).

The Stow Musket is nearing display at Randall! The Trustees are finalizing plans and checking some last minute details, but the hope is that it will be on display by the 2012 trail march. It will be on the first floor of the library, behind the computers, where there is currently a map on the wall.

Space at Pompo has been requested if/when it becomes a community center. We have files scattered around various members' houses and would like to consolidate it. We would also like to use Pompo for practice space and storage for some belongings (drums, some gear) if possible.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:17 PM.