

2017 Stow Minutemen Company
Annual Meeting
January 15, 2017

Attendees:

Bob Stokes (Captain/President)
Ryan Hayward (Lieutenant/Vice President)
Jeff Needle (Paymaster/Treasurer)
Linda Stokes (Quartermaster)
Craig Schomp (Armorer/Safety Officer)
Thomas Johnson (Adjutant)
Dave Walrath (Ensign)
Bonnie Brench (Music Master)
Matthew Brench (Music Master)
Jeff Stokes
Joanna Brench
Rob Caponi
Cara Schomp
Matthew Schomp

Dues Information:

\$20 – Individual
\$30 – Family

Payable to: Stow Minutemen

Send to: Sgt Paymaster
Stow Minutemen Company
P.O. Box 174
Stow, MA 01775

10:35 am – Call to Order

With 34 active voting members, a quorum of 7 was required and present. The meeting was called to order.

10:35 am – New Members

Bethany Bartolini was voted in as a new member

10:37 am - 2016 Annual Minutes

The 2016 Annual Company minutes were reviewed and accepted

10:40 am - Paymaster's Report

2016 Cash flow was positive. Our current balance is \$17,847.72.

- It was discussed that given the ample account balance the Company may look to donate more in the future to local community charities and/or benefactors.
- Dave Walrath mentioned that the rule of thumb he had heard was to ensure at least 2- yrs of income remains in savings.
- Bonnie Brench asked about any non-profit restrictions to account balances. The Paymaster stated the only non-profit status restriction was that the annual income be no more than \$25,000/yr.

It was noted that the Company's main revenue occurs over the three month parade season.

2016 Income

Dues	\$ 540.00		
Donations	\$ 15.00		
Parade Fees	\$ 6,400.00		
		Total	\$6,955.00

2016 Expenses

Trail March to Concord	\$ 941.05		
Black Powder	\$ 349.81		
Scholarship	\$ 602.23		
Company non-musical supplies	\$ 591.87		
Encampment Expenses - e.g. food	\$ 483.57		
Insurance	\$ 315.00		
Internet	\$ 77.35		
Other	\$ 93.64		
		Total	\$ 3,454.52

2016 Profit/Loss **\$ 3,500.48**

10:45 am - Armorer's Report

Safety: Only one minor incident in 2016 when a fouled musket prevented participation in the North Bridge musket volleys.

The Company currently has 3 pounds of black powder in stock ready for cartridge making.

Expended 1,100 cartridges in 2016

Expecting ~1,500 cartridges will be expended in 2017. Anticipate a need for ~\$450.00 in black powder purchases for 2017.

Sgt Armorer announced that he would be appointing a Corporal (Matt Schomp) to assist him in 2017

Good turn-out was had at the Maynard Rod and Gun Club Musket Shoot. More participants are needed. There is a fee to cover the cost of powder supplied by Sudbury Minutemen.

The Collings Foundation reenactment event for 2017 that was in advanced planning has been shelved. There were creative differences between the participant organizations and the Collins Foundation on the type of event. Another event proposal may be made at a future time.

10:55 am - Quartermaster Report

Total expenditure of \$596.06 for 2016. Major expenses include: Loaner clothing purchases (2 shirts, 2 weskits) for \$335. A new event craft (dummy cartridge rolling) that added \$143.66.

There is a planned Sewing Bee on 6 Feb 17

- Jeff Needle, Ryan Hayward, and Thomas Johnson volunteered to inventory the loaner clothing at this event
- Cartridge tube rolling also mentioned to occur at this event.

11:00 am - 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.

Musicians supported 9 parades, 6-8 events, Annual Trail March

There are 2 advance fife students, 0 drum students

Available music instrument inventory consists of:

- 2 adult drums with straps
- 1 youth-size drum with canvas strap
- 1 small bass drum with straps and beaters
- 1 new pair Cooperman sticks (76g) – for sale
- 4 plastic fifes – for sale

Parade readiness continues to be a challenge with limited musicians. Drums are at critical level given availability of existing drummers.

Recruitment is vital if we are to continue fielding musicians.

- Discussion on need to reach out to local high school music directors to see if any interested students and the possibility of giving extra credit for fife and drum participation with the Company.
- Some discussion on potential for having hands on demos at events to generate interest.

No anticipated Music expenses expected for 2017

- It was discovered that the \$585.00 repair bill from 2016 had not been paid. That amount was put in for the 2017 budget.
- A new Model F fife purchase (as a sale item) was discussed but not officially proposed.

11:20 am - Ensign's Report

The addition of the kid's flag in 2016 for parades was well received.

The Company's Red Flag needs cleaning (around \$30)

Need to buy a new pole for the Blue Flag in 2017. The old pole can be repurposed for the smaller flag.

Need to buy 2 leather flag carriers for the larger two Company Flags

- The leather was preferred over the cheaper web carrier for comfort

Requested a budget of \$200.00 for 2017 to cover above purchases

11:22 am - Captain's Report

2016 Review and 2017 Planned Events

The Captain discussed the completed and planned events of the 2016-2017 season. The proposed 2017 Company event line-up was the same as 2016.

- The Lieutenant requested to add Tower Park and Red Horse Tavern events to the Company Event list to cover cartridge issue to the few muskets that attend these events as add-ons to other reenactment company ranks.
- Discussion on the success of the big June parade weekend in 2016 (Bunker Hill and Gaspee Days.) Both events were successful and garnered good feedback from event sponsors. Bunker Hill parking was considerably easier with the new remote parking lots. Both parades will be supported in 2017 with Music and/or Muskets.
- Dave Walrath pointed out that given the Company finances it might be worthwhile to bypass some of the more difficult paid parades to give Company personnel some down time.

The 2017 Event Line-up was accepted with the two event revision

- The Adjutant stated there needs to be a better predictive approach for estimating participation size for each event. For 2017 he would try and employ the use of a Google Doc spreadsheet link so Company members can directly add their expected participation whenever they can.

Other Reenacting Events Happening

There are a few other events that are not Company events presented for awareness. Participation by Company personnel is on an individual basis.

- As mentioned both Battle Road and Red Horse Tavern events were moved into the Company sponsored event list for administrative purposes
- Joanna Brench mentioned that Battle Road is very regulated and difficult for musician participation.
- Craig Schomp mentioned that the Maynard Rod and Gun Club Musket Shoot event needed to be added to this event listing.

12:21 pm - 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
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Slate of officers was approved unanimously.

12:22 pm - Scholarships

The Committee members for 2017 were accepted as: Rick Lawson, Robert Stokes, Linda Stokes, and Dave Walrath

- Some discussion was held on a desire to review the eligibility requirements to ensure they presented continued legitimacy for Company award.

12:30 pm - 2017 Requested Purchases and Budget Approval

Sgt. Armorer requested the funds to purchase a Company owned musket to the 2017 Budget. The intent of the musket would be for parade use by younger Company members and potential recruits who want to participate prior to deciding to invest in a personal musket.

- Discussion was had on the rules concerning the issuance rules of this loanable musket and the non-member insurance implications
 - o The Paymaster stated that the Company insurance would not be affected if the non-member potential recruit signed a waiver of liability prior to carrying the loaned musket in a Company event.
 - o It was decided that the musket would be issued by the Sgt. Armorer at the point of the parade and returned to the Sgt. Armorer's possession after the parade.
 - o The user of the Company musket would not be issued any cartridges unless they had obtained the required MA licensing and had completed the familiarization and safety training to the satisfaction of the Lieutenant and the Sgt. Armorer.
 - o The motion was proposed and accepted. \$600.00 was added to the Black Powder budget to purchase the musket (and basic accessories). The Lieutenant and Sgt. Armorer will decide the type of musket to be purchased.

Expected Income

Donations	\$ 0.00
Dues	\$ 540.00
Parade Fees	\$6,100.00
Total	\$6,640.00

Expected Expenses

Advertising	\$ 200.00
Black Powder	\$ 1,050.00
Company non-musical supplies	\$ 800.00
Encampment Expenses - e.g. food	\$ 750.00
Insurance	\$ 315.00
Internet	\$ 71.40
*Musical Instruments	\$ 585.00
Other	\$ 200.00
Scholarship	\$625.00
Trail March to Concord	\$1,100.00
Total	\$5,696.40

Budgeted Profit/Loss \$ 943.60

- \$585.00 is for outstanding amount on repair done in 2016

The 2017 budget as detailed above was approved unanimously.

1:15 pm – New Business

Thomas Johnson proposed the purchase of a small kitchen tent and the establishment of a dedicated Kitchen Master position to better focus and enable a greater degree of 18th Century culinary enrichment for the Company and education for event patrons. He nominated Cara Schomp for the position.

- After some discussion and overwhelming objections the proposal was withdrawn.

The need for new storage arrangements for the Company equipment was revisited.

- Discussion was had on the inevitability of the failure of the current method of storage and transportation.
- Potential solutions proposed included:
 - o Purchasing a trailer. Discussions included the needed size of the trailer, the potential difficulty to transport it, and the storage security. More study is needed to determine the best size to get and to also determine the size of vehicle

needed to tow it. Suggestions for storage included asking the city for a parking slot at the new Community Center or the old Firehouse garage.

- o Request storage space at the new Community Center. It was mentioned that the existing residents of the Community Center might not be able to use all of their allotted space. The transportation issue for the equipment would not be solved by this solution.
- No conclusions or actions resulted from these discussions.

1:45 pm - Vote to Adjourn