

Stow Minutemen Company Annual Meeting

January 21, 2023

Voting Members in Attendance:

Robert Stokes (Captain / President)
Ryan Hayward (Lieutenant / Vice President)
Jacob Shiller (Sgt. Adjutant)
Bonnie Brench (Music Master)
Matthew Brench (Sgt. Paymaster / Treasurer)
Craig Schomp (Sgt. Armourer)
Jeff Stokes
Matt Schomp
David Walrath
Karen Walrath
Joanna Brench
Rob Caponi
Stephen Balzac

Other Members and Guests in Attendance:

None

10:00 AM – Technical Meeting Starts

10:05 - Meeting Called to Order

The Captain arrives; 11 active voting members are present (a quorum being 7 needed), and the meeting is called to order.

10:07 - Approval of Meeting Minutes from January and March, 2022

Bob makes the Motion, Ryan Seconds (January Minutes)

Bob makes the Motion, Matt Brench Seconds (March Minutes)

10:12 - Officers Reports:

10:13 – Paymaster

We brought in \$4,100 and spent \$4,671. Net Loss \$571. Approximately \$22,000 in the bank.

10:22 - Lieutenant

Black powder is being secured. We should get more at the end of the season as it will be more complicated than normal to procure it with a national shortage. It has increased in cost.

10:24 - Sgt. Armourer

We might need a new musket display table. We might want a musket steam cleaner to make sure the muskets are cleaned properly. Bob offered to sell his to the company with details to be worked out by the officers.

10:33 - Sgt. Quartermaster

We need someone to do this job, but the only serious use was for OSV, which we communally handled.

10:35 - Music Master

We have music lessons. We have 1 advanced Fifer, 1 beginning Fifer, 3 drum students, and a new base drum student. 3 possible new recruits

Drum Inventory:

Out on loan:

- 1 adult-size snare drum (George Dunning)
- 1 youth-size snare drum (Ephraim Dunning)
- 1 adult-size bass drum (Jonathan Daisy)

Ready for loan:

- 3 adult-size snare drums
- 2 youth-size snare drums
- 1 slightly smaller bass drum for a youth or small adult

For demonstrations:

- 1 refurbished, adult-size snare drum
- 1 youth-size modern snare drum

Out on loan:

- 1 used Model F (Ann Gibson)

Ready for loan:

- 2 used Model F (from Linda)
- 1 plastic fife (lightly sanded with oval mouth hole, ideal for beginners)

Brand new:

- 4 plastic fifes (round hole, \$5 ea.)
- 3 Model F fifes (long chrome ferrules, \$140 ea.) (May be commandeered for loan, only, if Model F fifes become unavailable.)

For demonstrations:

- 3 used plastic fifes (round hole)
- 2 used maple wood fifes (new = \$30)
- 1 lightly used rosewood fife (This was from Linda; it is a slightly more expensive fife and no longer available new, potentially valued at \$70. It should probably NOT be used for general demonstrations.)

10:48 Ensign

David noted that the large red flag needs professional cleaning, the blue flag needs replacing, and he purchased a small Betsy Ross flag for the youth to carry.

10:50 Captain

Nothing to report.

10:51 Event Discussion

Proposed Official Company Events:

- Bedford Pole Capping ~ Sat. April 8th 10 am (captain/adjutant)
- Battle Road + Tower Park ~ Sat. April 15th 10 AM (lieutenant)
- Stow Annual Trail March ~ Mon. April 17th @ 4:30 am (captain/adjutant)
- Lexington Muster ~ Sat. May 6th (music master)
- Center School event ~ TBD for this year. (A volunteer to look into the possibility)
- Stow Springfest ~ Sat. May 13th (Saturday before Election) (captain/adjutant)
- Flag Placement at Lower Village and Hillside Cemeteries, Saturday, May 27th (Jeff N. and Volunteers)
- Newton Veterans Parade ~ Sunday, May 28th 2 pm (\$1000) (captain/adjutant)
- Boylston Memorial Day Parade ~ Mon. May 29th, 10am (\$900) (captain/adjutant)
- Stow Memorial Day Parade ~ Mon. May 29th, 2pm (captain/adjutant)
- Gaspee Days Parade, Saturday. June 10th (\$1200) (captain/adjutant)
- Bunker Hill Parade, Sunday. June 11th (\$1000) (captain/adjutant)
- Boxboro Fifer's Day events ~ Sat. June 17th (captain/adjutant)
- Needham Parade ~ Tuesday, July 4th, 9 AM (\$1000) (captain/adjutant)
- Old Sturbridge Village Rebels and Redcoats Encampment ~ Aug 4th, 5th, + 6th (adjutant)
- Bolton Fair ~ Saturday, Aug 12th (captain/adjutant) (\$1200)
- Sudbury Colonial Faire and F&D Muster ~ Saturday, Sept. 30th (music master)
- Old Manse ~ Monday, October 9th (Columbus Day maybe?) (captain/adjutant)
- OSV Christmas by Candlelight - December weekend evening (date to be determined) (music master)
- 2024 Annual Company Meeting ~ Sat. Jan 6th, 2024 (tentative) (captain/adjutant)

Events accepted Unanimously, all but Battle road, which is to be boycotted/no longer considered in the foreseeable future.

11:36 - Other events discussed

- Battle Road Inspection – TBD (with Charlestown MM)
- Meriam's Corner Exercise – Same weekend as Bedford Pole Capping – April 8
- Jason Russell House – Likely Sunday, April 16
- Red Horse Tavern – October 28
- First Flag Raising – January 1, 2024 in Somerville (with Charlestown MM)

Meriam's Corner is no longer considered because of its affiliation with the National Park

11:39 - Election of Officers – 2023 Season

Officer position	Candidates
Captain / President	Bob Stokes*
Lieutenant / Vice President	Ryan Hayward*
Sgt. Armourer / Safety Officer	Craig Schomp*
Sgt. Adjutant / Clerk	Jacob Schiller*
	Corp. Jeff Needle*
Sgt. Paymaster / Treasurer	Matt Brench
Sgt. Quartermaster Open	Volunteer Needed
	Corp. Ann Gibson (clothing)*
Ensign	Dave Walrath*
Music Master	Bonnie Brench*
* = Candidate for Re-election	
Webmaster – Appointed Position	Jeff Stokes

All candidates were approved unanimously

11:42 Scholarship Committee

No eligible candidates for 2023

11:44 - Dues discussion

Dues have been changed to an optional recommended donation from being waved. The recommended amount is \$20/individual or \$35/family. Dues will help defray rising costs.

11:54 Annual budget

We will attempt to negotiate higher amounts of parade payments. This includes asking for \$1,400 for Gaspee Days, \$1,200 from Newton and Needham, and \$1,000 from Boylston.

Income:

- Dues: \$0
- Parades: \$5300
 - Newton: \$1000
 - Needham: \$1000
 - Boylston: \$900 (tentative?)
 - Bunker Hill: \$1000
 - Gaspee Days: \$1200
 - Bolton Fair: \$1200

Total Budgeted Revenue: \$6300

Expenses:

- Advertising: \$0
- Armoury / Black Powder: \$400
- Non-Musical Supplies: \$300 (gear)
- Trailer Budget: \$3500
- Storage Unit: \$2000
- Encampment Expenses: \$850 (food)
- Insurance: \$1450
- Internet (website): \$300
- Musical Instruments: \$550
- "Other": \$300
 - \$200ish for PO Box
 - \$18.50 for Annual Report filing

- Scholarship: \$0
- Trail March: \$1700
 - Dee Bus: \$350
 - Port-o-Potties: \$350
 - Police Detail: \$500

- Breakfast: \$250

Total Budgeted Expenses: \$11,250

Income - Expenses: -\$4,950

Budget Approved

12:09 Meeting Dissolved