

Swansea Historical Society

Executive Board Meeting

Minutes of September 30, 2025 @ 703 Pearse Rd (The Bowen Residence) Swansea, MA.

(note, Robby had to leave early @6:50)

- 1.) Meeting was called to order by Cheryl at 5:43 PM
- 2.) Roll call: In attendance President Cheryl Bogle, Vice President/Treasurer Karen Bowen, Secretary Brandon Travers, Executive Board members J Whitney Bowen, Ruth Ann Liggett, Robert Alford, Patricia Redfearn (via phone), Kathleen Leblanc, and guest Steven Bogle. Not present Diane Luther Silva.
- 3.) Treasurer Report: Recent donations collected \$500 from Roofing Doctor and \$200 from Bob Littlefield. Deposit made on Sept 22, \$35 from memorabilia, \$20 from new membership, Corporate donation of \$100 from Foley appliance, and \$30 in donations.
 - a. 501c3 update: Karen received email from the tax agent, showing us as auto declined . Agent informed either form 9235 needs to be filled out or the IRS needs to be contacted for update. Robby said he will ask the accountant to either call the IRS or fill out the form.
 - b. Endowment fund: fund not currently earning 1%. Was moved from CD and not moved back. As of August 2025 the fund was \$16,951.89. Fund was taken on November 11, 2003. Robby made suggestion of calling the state to say we would like to use the interest and return the fund. The Mass Historical Commission would have to inspect building before the fund can be returned. Cheryl made a motion to return the money ending the endowment fund, 2nd by Karen. Voted all in favor.
- 4.) Swansea Cultural Council: Approached Cheryl and asked the Historical Society to apply for grants. Pat suggested grants for archival binders, sheet protectors, etc. She also suggested grants for digitizing the 1800's newspaper "The Swansea Record". Cheryl let the board members know if we go for grants we have to use them, so if we ask for example \$2000 and only get \$300 we would be on the hook for the rest of the funds. We can use the funds to print books, however we cannot sell for a profit if paid for by said grants. Cheryl made a motion to apply for grants for archival supplies, 2nd by Kathleen, Unanimous vote. On the digitizing will be tabled until a further meeting.
- 5.) Building and grounds update-CPC funds available \$52,624.31
 - a. Will cost \$3-500 for mold testing, which the CPC will not cover. However they will cover the removal of plaster for mold remediation. The ceiling still has to come down due to mold. Robby suggested the wall upstairs that has the names/weights of townspeople from the 1800's, be photographed and

reproduced after. We can possibly use CPC funds on exterior brick work, will have to check on the article. Cameras have also been installed at the store.

b. \$3000 deposit given to the electrician for the work he is doing at the Luther store, he has been told not to go over \$10,000. The \$3k was a donation from Mr. Lane.

c. Steve Bogle updated the board on the basement. Has seen much improvement this year with a lot less water/condensation. The SHS has also received a donation of a commercial grade dehumidifier that will be installed soon. After Josh removed the wall on the second floor, the ceiling showed severe deterioration. Beams and steel plates will be installed to help support the roof and 2nd floor. The 1st floor has a rating of 100lbs per sq ft, whereas the the 2nd is only 20 lbs per sq ft.

d. The neighbor Kyle, (who maintains the grounds for the SHS), has been updated on billing for the ground care.

e. Karen made a motion to remove the tree in front of the building. 2nd by Cheryl, Unanimous vote.

6.) Carl Becker/items being stored at his residence

a. We have 24 pages of missing items, possibly in Mr. Becker's possession still. This includes the Stevens silver, dueling pistols, musket, etc. Karen proposed sending Carl a registered letter asking for the return of all SHS property. Cheryl made a motion, 2nd by Karen, Unanimous vote.

7.) Programs and events 25-26 season

a. Pumpkin patch event Oct 11, Abrams Walk w/ Paul Cote 10/26

b. Historic Cemeteries talk @ community center 10/29

c. Holiday wreaths/swag with Ruth Ann Nov 8

d. Mt Vernon "A love story" reading (poss) Feb 26

e. Rita Parisi 3 events, Spring time tea, July 1776 Woman in History, and Oct Gothic tails.

f. Brandon proposed looking into a cigar night fundraiser, also talks on soldiers of Swansea WW2 and Ocean liners.

g. 85th Anniversary with possible food event

8.) Adjournment

a. Cheryl adjourned the meeting @ 7:13, 2nd by Brandon.