

# Minutes of the Executive Board of the New Hampshire Archives Group

Concord, NH

July 18, 2007

Members Present: Tracy Messer, Elizabeth Slomba, Chris Pratt, Barbara Rimkunas, Lynn Aber, and Craig Evans.

The meeting was held in a conference room at the NH State Archives and was called to order at 9:45 AM.

The minutes of the March 21, 2007 meeting were presented and approved as written. The financial balance sheet as of July 17, 2007 was presented and approved.

The first item of discussion was the spring meeting at the Seacoast Science Center on May 16, 2007. Tracy reviewed the evaluation form results and the response was generally positive. Chris detailed the finances. Reaction to the NEA workshop was positive and Elizabeth discussed other workshops they could present in the future. There were issues with the afternoon "B" session which had to be rescheduled among the fish tanks off of the lobby.

Planning for the fall meeting was begun. Alice Staples of Plymouth State University was reasonably certain we could meet there pending approval from the Lamson Library director. The board agreed on the dates of November 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, or 15<sup>th</sup>. Elizabeth will coordinate with Alice to see if the dates and place are acceptable.

The Board agreed on the theme of back-to-basics. Setting up an archive, public history, and use and care of public records were discussed as possibilities. The discussion regarding public records led to the possibility (raised by Craig and Lynn) of doing some sort of presentation aimed at town clerks and other keepers of public records. Elizabeth suggested contacting Paul Bergeron as he has done such work in the past. However, it was decided that such a presentation was beyond the scope of our fall meeting.

Lynn also suggested Alan Allard who has worked on the vital records microfilm project with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Elizabeth suggested that a session on non-print archives could be held in the future which could use such a resource. A brief discussion followed regarding the role of institutional archives such as businesses and higher education. Craig noted that perhaps historical societies needed to think of themselves as institutions and how we document ourselves as well as our local history. That notion led us into three possible sessions.

1. A panel discussion featuring a brief presentation followed by discussion. The focus would be on how historical societies, museums, and archives think of themselves as institutions. One speaker would be from an

institutional organization, another from a “paid staff” organization, and one that runs strictly with volunteers. Several possible speakers were discussed including Alice Staples, Alan Rumrill, Michele Stahl, John Casaratto, and Betty Moore. Board members who know the individuals will contact them.

2. Chris offered to do a brief presentation on caring for public records that happen to find their way into historical society collections.
3. Finally, a session on the basics of how to set up an archives. Betsey Hamlin-Morin was suggested as a possible speaker.

Tracy offered to contact several organizations about sponsoring the meeting. This is an effort to maintain our lunch and goodies offering while keeping the registration fee low. Chris noted that expenses for the spring meeting were around \$825 including lunch, coffee, and honoraria.

A brief discussion followed about reviving the NHAG Newsletter (*Inventory*). It was decided to put that off. Elizabeth suggested replacing it with a blog, which brought a positive response from the board.

Chris noted that a number of people and organizations listed on the membership roll have not paid their dues and may, indeed, be out of the archives field. Since we have a small organization, it was decided to keep the names and addresses on file for 5 years.

Elizabeth raised the issue of the brochures and offered to redesign them.

The next board meeting will be held on September 12, 2007 at 9:30 AM. Tracy will see if the State Archives can host us on that date.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Christopher Pratt  
Secretary/Treasurer