



**Windham Museum Trustees
Meeting Wednesday, August 12, 2022
Armstrong Memorial Building, 7:00PM**

Present: Bob Coole (Alternate), Diane Farmer (Regular), Jean Manthorne (Regular), Carol Pynn (Regular), Derek Saffie (Regular), Wendy Williams (Regular)

Present: Dave Curto, Kara Feldberg, Byron James, Tom Paquette

The focus of the meeting was discussion of the Campbell Farm artifacts being stored at off-site storage facilities. Except for the piano, all of the larger artifacts are stored at a unit in Nashua and the current contract ends in November.

Ms. Manthorne mentioned the possibility of storing some of the artifacts in the basement at Campbell Farm. Mr. Paquette noted that he does not want to be responsible for artifacts owned by the town. However, he would be willing to accept ownership of artifacts that are deaccessioned by the town. He returned to the Trustees a copy of an inventory of the artifacts with those he would be interested in labeled.

There was discussion of relocating the artifacts to a nearer storage unit where the artifacts would be more accessible. This could be a unit located near the Campbell Farm or the museum.

Ms. Manthorne suggested the museum may only need representational pieces of the Campbell Farm furniture, and not necessarily every chair in a set, for example.

Mr. Curto agreed to contact Attorney Campbell and town administration to confirm what powers the Conservation Commission has to dispose, donate, or sell Campbell Farm artifacts.

Ms. Williams clarified that usable pieces of furniture unwanted by the museum should be donated, if the Commission has the authority to do so, rather than discarded.

Mr. Coole suggested contacting an antique dealer or auctioneer, but Ms. Manthorne recounted previous efforts to gauge interest of antique dealers that were unsuccessful.

Ms. Manthorne offered her opinion that, once the Conservation Commission's power to make decisions regarding the artifacts is settled, the first priority should be getting the pieces of significance to the museum. Next, if permissible, Mr. Paquette should be given the right of refusal on what is remaining. Finally, a plan will be needed for whatever is remaining.

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There was discussion of the possibility that there may be a maximum dollar amount under which the Commission could sell artifacts as they please. Mr. Curto will follow-up on this.

Mr. Curto will investigate moving to monthly billing for storage.

Ms. Feldberg informed the Trustees that the storage contract for the piano expires in October. There was discussion that moving the piano is expensive and difficult, so it should not be moved more than necessary.

There was discussion of the necessity of climate controlled storage for the artifacts. Ms. Williams suggested that it may not be necessary as the furniture was stored at Campbell Farm for decades and centuries without climate control. However, there may be a requirement of humidity control to avoid damage to the artifacts.

Mr. Curto suggested revisiting previous plans to try to display some of the artifacts at properties throughout town, such as the library or businesses.

Mr. Curto will inform Ms. Manthorne of progress made for any of the action items he is responsible for. He suggested another meeting in late September or early October pending resolution of the action items; this could be a joint meeting at the storage facility.

Ms. Williams motioned to adjourn at 8:15PM; second by Mr. Saffie, 5 - 0.