

Cherryfield Narraguagus Historical Society January 15th, 2026

The meeting was held at Kelley's house at 6PM. Members in Attendance: Rick Harter, Denise Lavoie, Crystal Hitchings, Sarah LaSagna and Kelley Wescott.

Rick discussed the sump pump and electrical situation in the museum. Jonathan Gay had been there to make an initial assessment. The sump pump that is in use is located below the panel in the basement. The upstairs panel needs to be replaced. The ballpark cost is between \$4500 (for basic safety) and \$7500. It was agreed by all present that we commit \$4000 toward it to get it underway. We also discussed installing a heat pump on the first floor (specific location to be determined) and seal off the floor grates so the dampness and cold does not continue to come up from the basement. In addition it was decided to turn off the holiday lights to save on the electrical bill for the remainder of the winter. The purchase of a dehumidifier is being considered.

Denise gave a financial report. We currently have a balance of \$13,542.37 in the checking account. The \$5000 for the structure summary will be deducted from that. The total income for 2025 was \$23,990.00, which included funds from the Maine Community Foundation that had not been taken in previous years, as well as donations, fundraising, a grant and dues. Expenses totaled \$12,487.38. Maine Community Foundation has approved a 2026 withdrawal of \$6,230.00, although we can take more money out if needed. Anticipated expenses for 2026 (utilities, insurance, septic, etc.) is \$5,688.00. Rick will find out what we owe his son for lawnmowing and other work.

Kelley has contacted the Pleasant River, Milbridge, Steuben and Gouldsboro historical societies to ask if there is any interest in getting together with us at the Academy to exchange ideas and talk about what each group is doing. This will be held on May 21st at 6PM. So far Pleasant River and Milbridge have accepted the invitation. We will serve refreshments at the gathering.

The group had an open discussion about events for 2026. We are considering a member appreciation gathering in May (no date set yet), a presence at Cherryfield Days on the east side (no specific plans as of now), a possible cookout at the historical society in August/September and a second, annual Shiverwalk. Kelley and Denise will work on formerly asking older members of the community to attend the member appreciation evening and, if they are comfortable, share some of their own stories about Cherryfield. Kelley and Crystal will help Sarah with the Cherryfield Days planning, Rick could help with the cookout, and all of us will do what we can to get ready for Shiverwalk.

Sarah presented the group with three logos and one was chosen to be the official one moving forward. Then she opened a discussion on what we could do for historical society merchandise to have available at events and in Mary's store. Among the ideas were: stationery, local photographs, hats, t-shirts, tote bags, patches, bib aprons, water bottles, coffee mugs, magnets, cookbooks and calendars. This list was narrowed down to the

following: calendars, patches with the logo, totes, magnets, coffee cups and stickers. Further discussion on all the ideas will continue in February.

Kelley asked to work on getting the 3rd floor cleaned out and the damaged wallboard removed when the weather improves. Storage of items that can be saved would be on the second floor, in the new sheet rocked section, after we paint the walls and get the boards on the floor. (Possibly late March/early April). Rick thinks there are enough boards available between the house and barn to cover the floors or very close to it.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.