

February 5, 2015

15-4

A joint workshop meeting of the Caribou City Council with the Nylander Board was held 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 5, 2015 at the Nylander Museum with the following members present: Mayor Gary Aiken, Deputy Mayor David Martin, Philip McDonough II, Joan L. Theriault, Shane McDougall, and Jody R. Smith. Tiffany Stewart was absent and excused.

Austin Bleess, City Manager was present.

Nylander Board Members: Kimber Noyes and Jessica Feeley.

Kimber gave a brief presentation discussing the history of the Museum. The building was built to house Professor Nylander's collection, which was mostly collected in the area. He was the first Curator.

The Curator used to work almost full time and the position was cut. The position was completely eliminated in June 2013. In 2012 the Chamber of Commerce was invited to locate here. That has been a very helpful arrangement.

Within the last four months the Board has decided to get some audio aids for the Museum. This will be paid for by donations. They are looking at implementing the Senior Volunteer Program at the Museum.

The Board is trying to get new members. They'd like to get the Board active and going again.

Councilor McDonough discussed the ordinance and bylaws with the Board.

Mayor Aiken expressed his concern that no one is admiring or appreciating the collections. Even the schools don't come. The collection never changes. Kimber says we need to have more involvement to get the collection to change properly.

The Mayor stated we should put display cases in the Library, City Hall, and Recreation Center. Kimber asked if there would be room, Manager Bleess said there likely would be.

Kimber stated he is trying to work with the Superintendent of Schools to get the fourth graders to come to the museum when they study geology. Jessica stated we get a lot of home school tours.

A lot of the photos that are available for viewing are also available to be viewed online at the Maine Memory Network.

Looking at a grant opportunity to help fund things at the Museum.

The Mayor reiterated that he feels it is a shame the collection does not appear to be appreciated here in Caribou, and the collection should be someplace where it is appreciated. Perhaps we need to promote the Museum to schools downstate. And the local universities.

Kimber stated summer time has more tourists come through and winter is pretty slim. Often times it is a mix of ages. Discussion ensued on how to help get more people into the Museum.

A traveling display to Thursday's on Sweden was discussed.

The necessity of an active board was stressed.

Another meeting of the groups was set for Tuesday April 7 at 6 p.m. at the Nylander.

Meeting declared adjourned at 6:53pm.

Austin Bleess, City Manager