

Dartmouth Historical & Arts Society Meeting of May 31, 2019

Present: Robert Harding, Sue Guiducci, Kathy Plant, Marian Ryall, D. Jordan Berson, Sally Aldrich, Robert Barboza, Richard Gifford.

The meeting at the Russells Mills Schoolhouse was called to order by Chair Robert Harding at 6:30 p.m. with the above members present.

1. Minutes: The minutes of the April 25, 2019 meeting were reviewed, with Ms. Guiducci making a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Berson. The vote was unanimous, 8-0. The minutes of the March 26, 2019 meeting were reviewed, with a motion to approve them as submitted made by Mr. Barboza, seconded by Mr. Gifford; the vote was 8-0 in favor.
2. Treasurer's Report: In the absence of Mrs. Stringer, Mrs. Plant provided an update on finances, reporting two new memberships for \$40 in revenues, and expenses totaling \$449.18 for the past month. With living history account funds included, the ending balance of \$17,188.65 was reported. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Ms. Aldrich, seconded by Mrs. Ryall, and passed with a 8-0 vote in favor.
3. Program Report: Mr. Harding noted that the May 5 presentation by Maureen Taylor was well attended, and issued reminders of the planned June 2 lecture and June 22 spring yard sale. A revised schedule of upcoming events was distributed.
4. Publicity Committee: With Mr. Socha being absent, Mr. Harding reported the society's You Tube page is up and running, offering a variety of videotaped programs.
5. Education Committee: Ms. Guiducci presented a check from Friends Academy, reflecting the cost of living history programs provided to their students this year.
6. Research Committee: Mr. Harding noted his involvement in the project to put Apponegansett Meeting records on the society website; more volunteers are needed for the transcription project, involving over 6,000 pages of documents.
7. Old Business: Updates included a report that the construction of a sign for the schoolhouse is underway by GNB Voc-Tech students; a historic plaque for the building is also in the works. The saltworks paintings, originally owned by the Fay family of Gulf Road, were apparently conveyed to the school department with a restriction on disposition, so the "donated" paintings should be returned to the family by the society, Mr. Harding indicated.

During general discussions, it was decided to change the time of Sunday lectures back to 6:30 p.m. for the summer season. Thank you notes to house tour guides is still a pending item; it was confirmed that Jacob Smith will be paid \$20 per cutting of the schoolhouse lawn, with payments to be made on a monthly basis by the treasurer. Discussions of the weathervane project continued, with a contractor coming to estimate repair costs; Ms. Guiducci noted that the metal base of the weathervane has been repaired and restored, ready for installation when the carpentry work gets underway.

8. New Business: Mr. Harding read a draft letter of thanks to Nancy Manley, expressing thanks for the continued loan of a fireplace grate, screen and andirons for the ground floor fireplace of the

schoolhouse. The letter also acknowledges the long-term loan status of the articles. General agreement was to authorize the sending of the letter, signed by all directors present. Notice was received requesting the Stringer family's use of the schoolhouse on Aug. 11, 2019; a motion to approve the request was made by Mr. Barboza, seconded by Mr. Harding, and passed on a 6-0-2 vote with Mrs. Ryall and Mrs. Plant abstaining as probable participants in the event.

Mrs. Plant reported the purchase of a 10 ft. by 10 ft. pop-up tent for society use; Mr. Harding reported attending the dedication of the new solar farm facility at the Westport Landfill to longtime Westport Historical Society president Tony Connors, who also served as chair of the town's Energy Committee for many years. Ms. Aldrich raised the possibility of the society hosting a screening of the movie *Down to the Sea in Ships*, and selling reproduction program books and refreshments to raise funds. Possible screening sites include Southworth Library (\$100 or more fee, no admission can be charged, plenty of parking) and Dartmouth Grange (\$50 fee, admission can be charged, kitchen available, limited parking). She has the old program book from 1922 screening that can be reproduced. The idea will be discussed further at a future meeting.

Mr. Harding noted that the donated materials from the Martha Leonard bequest need to be moved to a secure location; Mr. Berson indicated he will help review the materials and recommend actions to be taken. Ms. Guiducci reported receiving multiple requests from local nursing homes and assisted living facilities seeking guest speakers and presentations on history topics of interest to their residents; she suggests a PowerPoint presentation detailing DHAS projects and programs be prepared for volunteers to present at visits to such facilities and/or organizations.

A motion to adjourn the meeting came at 7:25 p.m. from Mr. Barboza, seconded by Ms. Aldrich. The vote was unanimous, 8-0.