

Dartmouth Historical & Arts Society  
Meeting of Jan. 30, 2020

Present: Robert Harding, Marian Ryall, Sally Aldrich, Dan Socha, Kathy Plant, Donald Plant, Richard Gifford, Robert Barboza, Jordan Berson, Jeff King, Enid Silva, Sue Guiducci, Pam Cole.

Mr. Harding called the meeting at the schoolhouse to order at 6:30 p.m. The minutes of the Dec. 12, 2019 meeting were reviewed; Mr. Socha made a motion to approve with an amendment deleting "including \$9,867 in the Quaker Record account... \$10,000 is added..." from the treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Ms. Aldrich and passed on a 12-0 vote.

Treasurer's Report: None.

Publicity Committee Report: No important news, Mr. Socha indicated.

Programming Committee Report: Mr. Harding is planning a presentation for Feb. 3; beekeeper Joe Tardiff and local historian Peggi Medeiros have been invited to give lectures.

Education Committee Report: No new developments, Ms. Guiducci indicated.

Research Committee Report: Mr. Socha reported 697 transcriptions done, two pages per image; 21 percent of the transcriptions complete, only 6.7 percent have been reviewed by volunteer readers. Another 32 percent of transcripts "in the pipeline" to be reviewed. Mr. Harding suggests the society should try to publish the removal records, books of discipline, and indexes on the website; written permission from the Dartmouth Monthly Meeting will be sought by Mr. Socha. An Obadiah Brown Fund grant application has been filed to assist with financing the project.

Mr. Harding provided some details on the removal records, indicating that 50 percent of the "departed" Friends moved to meetings in New Bedford and Westport; he felt the society should cooperate and share information with the Monthly Meetings in those towns. He also noted that many Dartmouth Friends also migrated to 15 different counties in New York circa 1792 to 1837, perhaps prompted by meager inheritance opportunities here... usually, only the youngest sons inherited land in our area.

Ms. Cole reported that 150 pages of early New Bedford church records were given to Dan to scan; she also has books of records from the Smith Mills Congregational Church that should be examined, and possibly scanned for the archives.

Housekeeping/Building Committee Report: Mrs. Plant reported all well, and thanked directors for continuing donations of refreshments.

Old Business: No updates on Historical Plaque for the schoolhouse; or saltworks painting donation.

SOS Update: Mrs. Silva reported an upcoming lecture on Cuttyhunk history, Feb. 7; the organization is seeking a part-time program coordinator.

New Business: Mr. Harding suggested that Kathy Plant and Jordan Berson serve on a subcommittee to review offered donations of Martha Leonard materials; they agreed to the task. Ms. Aldrich indicated that she has an inherited collection of around 800 old Dartmouth and Westport postcards she is willing

to donate to the society archives. Mr. King and John Taber examined the schoolhouse cupola, with an eye towards removing and reproducing the structure. The replacement effort will be discussed further at a later date. Mrs. Plant noted some new elder interviews have been completed; she would like to continue producing them for the DHAS website. Potential interviewees suggested included Paul Levasseur and Pam Cole.

Information was received from Historic New England files (house info, correspondence) about Ruth Ekstrom's house in Russells Mills Village, now owned by the Newtons; it includes information about the locally built ship Ann Alexander. There was some discussion of the need to recruit more volunteers for the Friends Records project. Ms. Cole suggested that the research team needs to contact the Allens Neck Meeting to see if they will allow transcription of their old records; that information would be the final addition to complete the Dartmouth Monthly Meeting archive, she believes.

With no other business to conduct, Mr. King made a motion to adjourn at 8 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Barboza, the vote was unanimous, 11-0.