

Dartmouth Historical & Arts Society  
Meeting of March 28, 2019

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Robert Harding with following members present: Sue Guiducci, Dan Socha, Marian Ryall, Robert Harding, Katherine Plant, Robert Barboza, Richard Gifford, Pat Stringer, Sally Aldrich, Jeff King.

MINUTES: Sally Aldrich presented the minutes of the Feb. 28, 2019 meeting, with a motion to accept as presented coming from Ms. Guiducci, seconded by Mr. King; the vote was unanimous.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The treasurer's report from Ms. Stringer indicated revenues of \$620 and expenses totaling \$1,136.09 for the past month, bringing the ending balance to \$16,125.40. L. H. funds bring the liquid assets to \$17,857.40. Ms. Ryall made a motion to accept the report as presented, seconded by Ms. Aldrich; the vote was unanimous.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: The membership committee reported numerous responses to membership renewal letters, with 29 single memberships and 37 family memberships reported so far; the returns also included \$3,085 in donations by renewing members. A motion to accept the report came from Mrs. Plant, was seconded by Mr. Harding, and passed by unanimous vote.

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE: Mr. Socha noted that the Mail Chimp list has grown to 275 contacts, and social media outreach efforts continue with regular posts and email alerts. Otherwise, business as usual by the publicity team, advertising lectures and special programs. He also reported setting up a DHAS YouTube "channel" where about 70 DHAS lectures and programs will be available for viewing.

PROGRAM REPORT: The list of upcoming programs includes Richard Gifford on April 7; the last talk by Cukie Macomber was well attended as usual; estimated over 50 people in attendance, and the donation jar netted \$142. It was noted that the May 5 program hosted by Dartmouth Heritage Preservation Trust at the Grange will feature Maureen Taylor, the Photo Detective. A June 23 Revolutionary War era encampment is also planned at DHPT's Akin House.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE: It was noted that Friends Academy students had joined in living history program offerings at the schoolhouse and Akin House.

RESEARCH REPORT: The research team reported that Dartmouth Monthly Meeting records going back to 1600s are being transcribed in cooperation with a UMass Dartmouth archivist working on a statewide project. The records should be really valuable to genealogists, especially Quaker researchers, Mr. Harding suggested; he and Dan Socha are working with professional transcribers on the effort, involving more than 6,000 pages. Donors to help underwrite the work are needed; once the work is done, volunteer editors will be needed to review the transcribed documents. The estimated cost is \$27,000 to \$30,000 derived from cost of \$4.50 per page for transcripts.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Signage – Mr. Harding reported that the town has approved the installation of an informational kiosk outside the schoolhouse, noting its history and service record. Ms. Aldrich made a motion to expend the necessary funds for that purpose, seconded by Mr. King; the vote was unanimously in favor.

2. Donations – Ms. Aldrich offered the society a substantial Yard Sale sign to help promote the events, and a 1891 Walker map of southern Bristol County. A motion from Mrs. Plant to issue a letter of thanks from the society was seconded by Ms. Stringer, and passed with a unanimous vote. Later in the meeting, she also offered donations of a program book, photo stills, and information on Quakers from the 1922 movie Down To The Sea In Ships, featuring numerous locations in Dartmouth, Fairhaven, and New Bedford. A letter of thanks was approved to be sent to Joanne Manley, to record the loan of the fireplace screen and andirons for the schoolhouse, and expressing appreciation for the loan.

3. COA Request – The Council on Aging reached out to the society, asking for old photos of the town which might be copied or donated to the meeting room at the senior center. Cooperation with the effort was generally agreed on.

4. Other Business – Mrs. Plant reported that Allen Manley has offered financial help with the needed restoration of the schoolhouse weathervane. A suggestion to change the Sunday lecture programs from early afternoon to the evening was briefly debated and tabled without action. Ms. Stringer reported on upcoming events and programs at the Old Southworth Library. A suggestion to issue thank you cards for house tour hosts was tabled until a later date.

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. After general discussion of plans for the Plymouth 400 celebration, it was suggested that maps and historical information about Dartmouth be developed for local activities related to the regional celebration. Ms. Aldrich also suggested that a subcommittee be set up to prepare that informational material.

2. Mr. Harding reported on a recent meeting with UMass Dartmouth assistant chancellor John Hoey regarding the ongoing development of plans to restore the historic Weaver House on campus.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business on the agenda, Mr. Socha made a motion to adjourn at 8:05 p.m.; seconded by Mr. King; the vote was unanimous.