

**Dartmouth Historical & Arts Society  
Meeting of March 29, 2018**

Present: Robert Harding, Donald Plant, Kathy Plant, Dan Socha, Robert Barboza, Jeff King, Sue Guiducci, Pat Stringer, Marian Ryall.

New Business: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by the president, Mr. Harding, who introduced Elizabeth Newton, proponent of a Russells Mills old house tour in December. Ms. Newton reported having spoken to New Bedford Historical Society about how they organize their annual house tours. She said the focus is on education, and the effort depends on securing corporate sponsors and many volunteers to help with the event. The attraction for visitors is to find old houses with known histories that can be advertised as interesting places to visit, and the tough part is getting owners to agree to open their homes to the public.

Her research indicates that homeowners are responsible for securing liability coverage; the organizers secure re-enactors or actors to deliver a performance somewhere along the tour route; sometimes a scavenger hunt, raffle, or silent auction is staged to increase profitability and attract more people. Tickets are typically \$22 to \$25 per person. She suggested written guidelines be developed to show to homeowners who might want to participate. Richard Gifford noted that Westport Historical Society also does occasional walking tours, including about 10 houses on last summer's town-wide tour; Boy Scouts were recruited to help with parking and other chores; up to 30 volunteers would be needed for such an event, he estimated.

Mr. Harding was confident that the society could recruit enough volunteers to stage a tour; Mrs. Plant suggested the Dartmouth Grange would be a good place to hold a post-tour dinner or offer refreshments. Several people suggested that DHS students or UMass Dartmouth students could be recruited to help with a tour. Mr. King made a motion to initiate a planning process, seconded by Mrs. Plant, which passed by unanimous vote.

Guests Richard Gifford and Sally Aldrich were introduced as potential new members of the board of directors, both being friends of the DHAS who have contributed to the society's efforts in different ways. By general agreement, it was decided that both guests be made non-voting associate members of the board, and be offered up as full members at the next annual meeting. A motion to nominate both guests as future board members was made by Ms. Ryall, seconded by Mrs. Plant, and passed with a unanimous vote.

**Other Agenda Items**

Minutes: There were no minutes from the February 2018 meeting to review.

Treasurer's Report: Ms. Stringer reported an ending balance in February of \$6,613.23 in available funds in society accounts; \$8,220.23 balance including funds reserved for living history programming. Income for the month was \$325.00 with \$50.86 disbursed for routine expenses. A motion to accept the report was made by Mrs. Plant, seconded by Mr. King, and passed unanimously.

Membership Committee Report: Passed over.

Publicity Committee: Mr. Socha indicated that the media numbers continue to trend up for web page (up 10 % in three months) and Facebook; the Mail Chimp contact list has grown to 220 names. Mr. Harding noted that the Grange will present the DHAS with its Good Citizenship Award at its April 23 meeting; he, Mr. Gifford and Ms. Aldrich will present a program on the Delano family to an upcoming reunion of family descendants in June.

Program Report: Mr. Harding indicated that the genealogy workshop was a great success; a tutorial on doing such research will soon go up on the website; he also noted that the March 27-28 exhibition by DHS AP Art students was successful as well.

Education Committee Report: Ms. Guiducci noted that the Quinn Elementary School students are scheduled to visit the schoolhouse in May, with coordination already underway.

Research Committee Report: Mr. Socha indicated that the index of 1871 property owners is completed and will be joining other indexes on the web site; Mr. Harding will prepare a map of Delano properties for the June reunion. Coming soon are the 1652 proprietors' list index, and another of 1694 property owners.

Old Business: Pat Stringer provided flyers for the Save Old Southworth (SOS) fundraiser with Not Your Average Joe's restaurant on April 11; she noted the town is seeking Requests for Proposals for the property for the second time. Ms. Guiducci reported that an appraisal of the old clock from the schoolhouse (library) came in at \$50 to \$100, and delivery from library trustees is expected soon.

A motion to adjourn the meeting came at 7:30 p.m. from Mr. Barboza, was seconded by Mr. Plant, and passed by unanimous vote.