

Dartmouth Historical & Arts Society  
Annual Meeting, Nov. 7, 2019

Present: President Robert Harding, directors Kathy Plant, Donald Plant, Dan Socha, Richard Gifford, Jeff King, Enid Silva, Marian Ryall, Sally Aldrich, Pat Stringer, Robert Barboza.

Mr. Harding opened the business meeting at 6:40 p.m. by welcoming the members and directors in attendance. He invited Mr. Barboza, the board's recording secretary, to make the annual Secretary's Report on society activities for the past year. A copy of his remarks are to be included in the meeting minutes, and posted on the society website, Mr. Harding indicated. Ms. Ryall made a motion to accept the Secretary's Report, seconded by Mr. Socha; the vote was unanimous, 11-0.

Ms. Stringer presented a Treasurer's Report on revenues, expenses, and account balances as of Sept. 30, 2019. The total ending balance being \$27,670.51, including \$10,675 earmarked for the Quaker Records Project reserve account. Ms. Plant made a motion to accept the report as presented, seconded by Mr. Plant; the vote was 11-0 in favor.

Ms. Silva, chair of the Nominating Committee, presented a list of the expiring terms of board members, and recommended approval of Dan Socha, Jeff King, Enid Silva, Patricia Stringer, and Robert Barboza to new three-year terms on the Board of Directors, with Donald Plant recommended for the 13<sup>th</sup> seat on the Board of Directors; Mr. Barboza made a motion to appoint all six individuals for three-year terms, seconded by Ms. Aldrich; the vote was unanimous, 11-0.

With no other business on the agenda, Mr. Barboza made a motion to adjourn the business meeting at 6:50 p.m. The motion was seconded by Ms. Aldrich, and passed 11-0.

Informal Presentations: Mr. Harding provided an update on the Quaker Records Project, noting the first few "historical treasures" appearing on the roughly 100 pages of transcripts reviewed by project coordinators. New mysteries are also being revealed, he suggested, such as the question of why there were three different meeting houses in Dartmouth proper, all part of the official Dartmouth Monthly Meeting of Friends. At Smith Mills, the Friends first met in 1746 at the Faunce Corner Road home of Josian Merihews, and then at Adam Motts homestead on Chace Road until 1749; in early 1754, the Dartmouth Monthly Meeting appointed a committee to build a 30 by 30 foot meeting house on a parcel of land on Faunce Corner Road donated by Merihews, in that neighborhood known as Newtown. The Newtown Meeting House cost 401 English pounds, 10 shillings (old money) or "1,000 pounds in Rhode Island currency," the records show; a year later, members were assessed an additional 155 English pounds for finishing costs and additional work. The Newtown neighborhood burial ground was established in 1759, and is still located near the Bank of America property.

Mr. Socha noted that fundraising efforts will have to continue to pay for professional transcription expenses; Donald and Kathy Plant were noted as the latest contributors to the records project fund. The review and editing of the first 100+ pages of early documents will continue through the winter, he indicated. Editing guides will be developed to aid volunteers keep a certain uniformity to the transcriptions while striving to keep the text as accurate as possible, Mr. Socha said. Mr. Harding indicated that all names encountered will be indexed in alphabetical order in a searchable database, producing a resource which will be invaluable to genealogists and historical researchers. The president said that future interesting nuggets of local history will come from lists of earliest meeting members, relocation letters providing references to departing members, and records of the first joint meetings of Quaker men and women in 1891.