

Dartmouth Historical & Arts Society
Board Meeting of February 28, 2019

Meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by President Robert Harding with the following present: Susan Guiducci, Jeff King, Katherine Plant, Marian Ryall, Dan Socha, Richard Gifford, and Sally Aldrich.

MINUTES: The minutes of the January 31 were accepted as presented. In the absence of Secretary Robert Barboza, Sally Aldrich took the minutes of tonight's meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: In the absence of Pat Stringer, Kathy Plant gave the Treasurer's report. The balance on hand is \$18,973, which includes \$481 final receipts from the December House Tour, an additional \$160 from membership dues, less utility expenses of \$435. The report was accepted.

WEBSITE: Due to the volume of documents now being submitted to our website, Dan Socha is making changes to increase storage space efficiency. He has renamed "Archives" to "Colonial Era Records" to reflect its current contents. He is creating a new "Archives" category which will contain a summary, an index, and a request form for the applicant to email Dan, who in turn will provide access to the source documents stored offline on a separate DHAS server. The process will remain flexible and over time adapted to reflect the volume of requests on any particular subject. Studio D programs and current website content will remain directly accessible. We benefit from Dan's considerable time and energy and are not paying an outside vendor for this valuable resource.

PUBLICITY: The subject of roadside signage outside the schoolhouse, brought up at our last meeting, was further discussed. The Board voted to empower Jeff King to contact the Russells Mills Historic District to explore any restrictions which might impact our deliberations. The Board also discussed whether it would be appropriate to send out a broadcast email to membership seeking information on a particular topic about which DHAS lacks details. In the current instance, DHAS received an audience request for information on the Copicut Lodge, which is no longer in existence, although the building foundation remains. The Board responded positively to using email for this purpose.

PROGRAMS: There was a full house on hand for David Jones's talk on Horseneck Beach on February 24th. A young lad from DCTV helped out with the video, and Kathy Plant received many compliments on the refreshment table. Next up is Cukie Macomber telling "Shipwreck Stories" on March 10. Future programs were discussed, including Bob Frishman, who may be moved to April 14. Format changes to the printed agenda for clarity were suggested, and the Board voted to retain the 2:30 p.m. program starting time until at least mid-May.

RESEARCH: Bob Harding reported that he has talked with Robert Cox, head of archives at UMass-Amherst about transcribing and indexing our online Quaker Meeting records. The next step would be an excursion by DHAS representatives to Amherst to meet with University personnel.

SCHOOLHOUSE PLAQUES: Marian Ryall continues to research the names and dates of school teachers (to 1914) and librarians (to 2007) to appear on the plaque(s) to be mounted inside the schoolhouse. The Board still needs to resolve the format particulars as to size and materials.

COUNCIL ON AGING: Bob Harding has met with them and showed them photograph possibilities from our website. The Council will choose what to hang in the Center's main room.

ROOF LEAK? We need to keep an eye on a potential roof leak on the second floor near an east window. If there really is one, we will need to notify the Town. The weathervane also may need a repair.

GRANGE FEES: The Board voted to authorize the Treasurer to pay the Dartmouth Grange's normal fee for the previous speaker (Holly Herbster) and a future speaker (Maureen Taylor).

RM HOUSE TOUR: The Board voted to thank house owners with a packet of 12 notecards featuring the drawing of their individual house, together with a DHAS thank-you letter, and authorized Kathy Plant to spend up to \$100 to complete the project.

PLYMOUTH 400: Bob Harding and Sally Aldrich recommended that board members explore www.Plymouth400inc.org to learn about events planned between April and Thanksgiving 2020 to commemorate the *Mayflower* voyage and Plymouth settlement. There is a major push to promote Massachusetts tourism, revitalize the Town of Plymouth, and use cultural and civic engagement to document the early interaction between the Wampanoag and early English settlers. For the first time, the Native Americans will get to tell their side of the story on a national and international scale. The stated goal is to "Be historically accurate and culturally inclusive." Sally Aldrich suggested that since Dartmouth had to rebuild in 1680 after King Philip's War, a full 60 years after *Mayflower*, we showcase the scenic and rural aspects of our area by focusing on still visible Colonial landmarks (Akin house, Russell's Garrison, Apponagansett Meeting House, Russell's Mills landing, Gray's Grist Mill, etc.). The Board agreed that we should reach out to Acushnet, Fairhaven, Westport and Little Compton and leave New Bedford out of the mix (post-1765 achievements). We have ties to John Cooke and Betty Alden, Quaker freedom, town self-government, fights of taxation without representation (Paul Cuffe, Philip Cummings). We might use an historical brochure and trail map to call attention to our area.

NANCY MANLEY LOAN: Sue Guiducci announced that Nancy Manley was making a loan to DHAS of the fireplace andirons, screen and FP tools, currently back in the schoolhouse. The items, which Nancy purchased from the Town when the library closed, will be marked as such.

VOTED to adjourn at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sally Aldrich