

Dartmouth Historical and Arts Society

Board of Directors Meeting of July 27, 2017

The meeting at the Russells Mills Schoolhouse was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by President Robert Harding. Directors present were: Mr. Harding, Robert Barboza, Dan Socha, Marian Ryall, Pat Stringer, Enid Silva, Donald Plant, Kathy Plant.

In general discussion, it was noted that there are now 209 people on the society's mailing list; in order to grow the list, directors are encouraged to email their contacts to Mr. Harding for addition. Kathy Plant mentioned the recent appearance of two history articles in The Chronicle newspaper; Bob Harding reported he has started genealogical research on the Tucker family, in response to an inquiry by a descendant of the family.

A motion by Kathy Plant to approve the minutes of the June 29, 2017 directors meeting, as amended to correct a scrivener's error, was seconded by Donald Plant, and approved by unanimous vote. Pat Stringer delivered a financial report of accounts as of June 30, 2017, with \$211 in donations and \$101 in yard sale proceeds bringing the account balance to \$9,918.77 as of that date. A motion to accept the treasurer's report came from Donald Plant, was seconded by Enid Silva, and approved unanimously.

Enid Silva's membership report included the addition of one person, for a total of 78 members. Robert Barboza made a motion to accept her report, seconded by Kathy Plant, and it was approved by unanimous vote. Dan Socha provided an update on publicity efforts for the web site and Facebook, including some analytics on number of visitors and interactions; he noted information on the Dartmouth Heritage Trail has been added to the website; links to the Wisdom of the Elders public recognition campaign and Weaver House article in Chronicle also coming soon. Marian Ryall made a motion to accept the publicity report, seconded by Enid Silva, and approved by unanimous vote.

With the Education Committee chair being absent, Bob Harding reported on the oral history campaign, with Renate Hamer his latest interview for DCTV filming effort; the interviews will also be coming to the DHAS website. Due to the rapid aging of our population, it was suggested that capturing oral and written histories should be a priority for the society in the near future; he said interviews with Leona Ashton and Horace Wildes were next on his assignment list.

After some discussion of the collaborative alliance effort with other historical interest groups, it was decided by general agreement to invite Fairhaven Tourism Director Chris Richard, a historical reenactor and Fairhaven Village Militia member, to come and give a talk or make a presentation. Members of the Freetown Historical Society and the Rochester Historical Society was added to the invitees list, as was author Michael Tougias. Mr. Harding was authorized to offer potential speakers and presenters honorariums up to \$50 on a motion by Kathy Plant, seconded by Enid Silva, and approved by unanimous vote.

Bob Harding noted he is negotiating with the public library to have some of his history and genealogy books held "in reserve" for public research use. It was suggested that the society get involved in nominating future candidates for Wisdom of the Elders honors; the Friends of the Elderly have the names of all eligible 90+ residents who can be nominated.

In new business, Bob Harding reported that the state and federal financial reports and annual filings need to be completed. The use of a CPA to help with the financial filings was agreed to by directors. Don Plant made a motion to send a note of thanks to Jeff King for his work to repair the seats in the schoolhouse, there was no second, or vote on the matter, but the task will be completed anyway. Mr. Plant suggested that the board undertake an inventory of items at the schoolhouse, including photographs, noting which items are society property and which are loaned materials.

Enid Silva reported on the Old Southworth Library Study Committee, helping the town determine if the building should be torn down and the property sold by the town, or offered for lease. Enid is among those advocating for municipal or commercial re-use; the town administrator is estimating \$100,000 to \$300,000 in renovations needed to make the building ADA compliant and available for lease or community use, she indicated. On the subject of ADA compliance requirements, it was noted that director Jason Protami had recently suggested the society look into a portable access ramp for the schoolhouse.

A motion to adjourn the meeting came at 8:10 p.m. from Donald Plant, and was seconded by Marian Ryall. The vote was unanimous.