

Westport Island History Committee

September 3, 2019

Present: Jeff Farbox, Mary Ellen Barnes, Debbie Williams, Callie Connor, Jean Wilhelmsen-Exter, Dedee Greenleaf-Hodgdon, Dennis Dunbar and Gaye Wagner

The meeting convened at 6:38 p.m. at the Town Hall. Mary Ellen made a motion to approve the July minutes; Callie, 2nd; unanimously approved.

The meeting began with a "Show & Tell" of new gifts with appreciation for the donors:

- Gift from Deb Lorenson, Co-Chair of the Westport Community Association (WCA), for the WCA of documents and pamphlets from the WCA, including a Community Association songbook.
- Gift from Paul Keiner of a box of treasures retrieved from an old Glenwood stove in his house which is part of the former Doggett property. He will be doing a tour of the house on September 15 for those interested. He is in the process of selling it. Callie will advise members of details.
- Gift from John Wallace from his mother's, Jean Wallace's, home: a book that appears to contain documentation of students from a school – not sure if it is a Westport school.
- Gift from the Estate of Mary E. Stacy that includes documents from Westport Islander's Edward Meader and Galen Mitchell as well as a transcription of a Bea Harriman interview.

Gaye and Callie reviewed their work to prepare for a "Contributing Partner" exhibit for the Maine Historical Society in November based on the Colby Greenleaf Collection. The exhibit will be anchored by an oral interview with Verlie Greenleaf and illustrated by relevant Westport photographs on the Maine Memory Network (MMN).

Jeff reported on the status of the Wright Landing House. The flooring is not yet completed and probably won't be for a few weeks. The house may not be ready for a fall exhibit; but we need to proceed with an evaluation of the space. Gaye and Jean will work on a proposal to pursue an ASK grant from Lincoln County Regional Planning to engage an architect/structural engineer to evaluate the space for historic preservation/display purposes.

Jeff reported on Bicentennial Planning. We are being asked to present a plan for what we would like to do the week a major "Lincoln County Pilgrimage" event is planned, August 10-16, 2020. Mary Ellen suggested we do an event that highlights the Town Hall -- which was a part of Westport life in the 1820 year of statehood; members concurred. Mary Ellen and Deb agreed to be liaisons for the Bicentennial Planning Committee.

Dennis advised that the State has set aside \$375,000 for projects that would help celebrate the Bicentennial in local communities. The 2nd round has a deadline of February 1, and the 3rd round will be due on June 1. There are two groupings of grants: large grants of up to \$10,000 and small grants of up to \$500. They need to be: community focused; free to community participants, and ideally, have appeal to young people. Dennis would like to pursue a proposal to develop and install interpretive signs with a QR code for a walking/driving tour of Westport, which might include: the Town Hall, the mills, the landings, etc. "Museum in the Streets", a similar community service in Wiscasset has its own smartphone app that contains more in-depth historical information for each of the sights highlighted – also an attractive idea. Dennis volunteered to take the lead to develop a proposed grant project.

Jeff passed out a summary of the Historical/Archaeological Resources section of the Comprehensive Plan for members to read in advance of the public hearing on Thursday, September 26, at 7 pm at the Town Hall. Members are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the plan's History section and to attend the meeting.

The November meeting conflicts with Election Day; it was agreed to meet in November on Tuesday the 12th.

Gaye made a motion to adjourn at 8:08 pm; Dedee, 2nd; unanimously approved.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 1, at 6:30 pm at the Town Hall.