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Westport Island History Committee

October 1, 2019

Present: Jeff Tarbox, Mary Ellen Barnes, Jean Wilhelmsen-Exter, Dedee Greenleaf-Hodgdon, Paul Bonyun and Gaye Wagner and **Guest:** Ruth Nelson

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

There is no current Treasurer's Report because of a pending audit question. The balance as of April was approximately \$5,000, so there is money to spend.

The meeting began with an update on the Maine Memory Network's (MMN) Contributing Partner exhibit at the Maine Historical Society (MHS). The proposed photos and layout have been accepted; and Jean has prepared a draft flyer. The exhibit will be on display from November 8 to April 25, 2020. The only evening hours for a possible History Committee "meeting/viewing" will be on a First Friday Art Walk; the first date after the opening will be Friday, December 6, 5-7pm. Still under discussion, a Westport Island group visit to the exhibit. Gaye will follow up.

Jeff provided an update on the Wright Landing House. Flooring will be installed in the next week in the main room. There will be no fall exhibit this year. While investigating resources to pursue an ASK grant to fund a professional inspection to evaluate suitability of the space for our requirements, Westport Island's Chris Malliet, a certified professional inspector, volunteered to provide the inspection at no cost. Jeff will follow up to arrange this. Jeff has also acquired some shelving for the house and continues to pursue acquisition of other display equipment.

Some History Committee members viewed the former guest house of Doggett Castle owned by Paul & Deb Keiner. The Keiners graciously opened their home and provided an interesting summary of the house's history, renovations and Doggett property "stories" which will be documented. Thank you to the Keiners.

Dennis is working on a grant proposal to develop and install interpretive signs for our local Bicentennial program. Jean presented an image of a portable display that might work as a part of developing a permanent display to celebrate and showcase the Town Hall. Mary Ellen and Jean will connect with Dennis to discuss grant options.

Jeff reported that Pedro Guimaraes has developed a structure for the Friends of Westport Island website and is waiting for content to populate it. Jeff will coordinate with Amy to plan next steps.

Mary Ellen provided an update on the Friends of Westport Island History (FOWIH). She would like Jean's assistance to refine the flyer she prepared for the Open House as a basis for an introductory brochure for the FOWIH. Mary Ellen will be arranging a separate History Committee meeting dedicated to the "Friends".

Jeff would like to purchase Past Perfect to better coordinate cataloging of existing holdings and incoming gifts. He finds it difficult to keep track of multiple spreadsheets and updates. He would like a small group to review software options and make a purchasing recommendation; and then a commitment by at least three people to train on the software. Mary Ellen and Jean took the lead to investigate software and make recommendations.

"Show & Tell" of new gifts and/or items available for viewing with appreciation to the donors;

- An 1814 ship's log found under the floorboards in the attic of Archie Bonyun's house (built 1852);
- A presentation by Paul of his father's 1934-36 Grand Banks photos from the schooner Arthur J. Lynch.
- A gift of a Doten-Dunton desk (Westport Islander Kervin Dunton's company) from Graham Gavert.
- Additional Community Association records/materials from Alfred "Ted" Lorz.

Gaye made a motion to adjourn at 8:14 pm; Paul, 2nd; unanimously approved.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 12, at 6:30 pm at the Town Office.