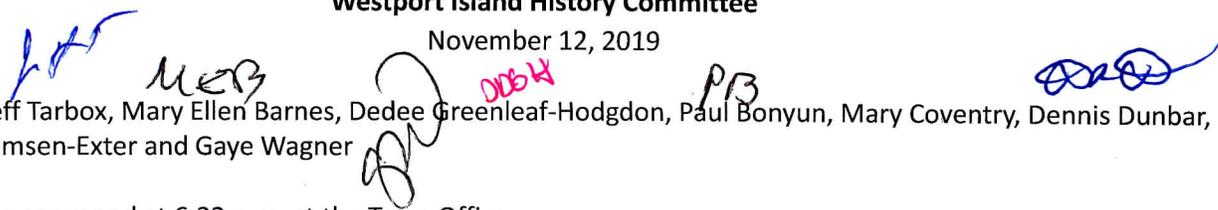


Westport Island History Committee

November 12, 2019


Present: Jeff Tarbox, Mary Ellen Barnes, Dedee Greenleaf-Hodgdon, Paul Bonyun, Mary Coventry, Dennis Dunbar, Jean Wilhelmsen-Exter and Gaye Wagner

The meeting convened at 6:32 p.m. at the Town Office.

Paul shared that some of his father's glass slides that included pictures of Westport were found at a neighbor's home on Long Island. Archie is cleaning them and will make them available to the History Committee for scanning.

Paul made a motion to approve the October minutes; Dedee, 2nd; unanimously approved.

Jeff reported that according to his books, the History Committee has about \$3,800 in operating and trust funds.

Gaye & Jean circulated Jean's exhibit brochure for "My Island Home" and discussed efforts to provide transportation to organize a group to attend the exhibit "grand opening" on Friday, December 6. Mary asked whether we might have the exhibit on loan when it closes for a "home exhibit." Gaye will investigate whether we could acquire the photographs and labels or have them on loan when the exhibit closes.

Discussion opened on Chris Malliet's inspection report on the Wright Landing House and Jeff's "triage" of needed repairs. Initial work needed includes painting, flooring, moisture/mold control, and security. Davies Allan generously donated \$2,500 to the Town towards painting the house. Members indicated willingness to do painting to leave donated funds for other security enhancements or repairs that can't be done by unskilled volunteers. There are questions beyond the inspection report regarding suitability for archival storage re security; moisture & humidity control and fireproofing. Security needs include locks on all windows & doors and intruder and fire alarms. Consensus was that the house may be used for exhibit/display space as well as for some interim – but selective -- storage uses: e.g. artifacts, the Doten-Dunton desk, research books, and secondary materials. Mary suggested the ideal would be for all materials to have the same protections and asked if we might bring Ellen Dyer in, a consultant who worked with us in the past on collections care, to help us evaluate the space. Gaye will follow up with Ellen re her availability to assist us in evaluating the space and to identify possible sources of funding.

Mary Ellen reported on the Friends of Westport Island History. She suggested an initial fundraising goal of \$10,000 this fall and into 2020 to help fund exhibit and storage expenses at the Wright Landing House, programming and other Friends activities. We could pair the possibility of bringing the "My Island Home" exhibit to the island for a summer showing with a plea for funds to create display space.

Mary Ellen also reported on research regarding a cataloging database purchase. The subcommittee has been reviewing Virtual Archive and consulting with other jurisdictions currently using Past Perfect.

Jeff reported that the website is still an outstanding project. He also sadly reported that Amy Mussman has resigned from the committee because of expanding work responsibilities; we thank her for her service.

Re Bicentennial Planning, Dennis will be distributing a list of sites that he is proposing for historical interpretive signs. The second round of Bicentennial grant applications are due in January. He has been researching other municipalities' signs and working on ideas for our signs' historical content. Mary Ellen noted this will be perfect for the planned "Lincoln County Pilgrimage," a concentration of Lincoln County events from August 10 to 16, 2020.

Committee members expressed appreciation to Dedee and Eben Greenleaf for their donation of additional materials from Verlie Greenleaf, including documents and a box camera with peripherals.

Jeff made a motion to adjourn at 8:14 pm; Dedee, 2nd; unanimously approved. **The next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 3, at 6:30 pm at the Town Office.**