

Westport Island History Committee

December 10, 2019

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

The meeting convened at 6:37 p.m. at the Town Office.

Paul made a motion to approve the November minutes; Dennis, 2nd; unanimously approved.

Jeff delivered the Treasurer's Report: we have about \$4,600 total in operating and trust funds.

My Island Home: Gaye reported that the Maine Historical Society will be giving us the photographs and labels at the conclusion of the "My Island Home" exhibit, and they will be digitizing and adding the exhibit to Maine Memory Network. Wiscasset Newspaper and Lincoln County News will each be printing a photograph and some information about the exhibit.

Bicentennial Planning: Dennis handed out an outline of nine Westport Island historic sites to be included as part of the "Lincoln County Pilgrimage" for next year's Bicentennial along with draft designs of what their interpretive signs might look like. He would also like to integrate a QR code in the sign design that can be scanned for a more comprehensive history. He solicited volunteers for research on the sites: Town Hall/Church (Jeff); Clough Point (Dennis); North Church (Gaye, Ann Cole-Fairfield); Ferry Landing (Debbie?); Squam Creek/Dunton homesteads and the mills (Dennis); and Squire Tarbox Inn (Mary? or Bill?). He and Jean are looking for a sketch artist who could do conceptual images of historic structures that are no longer on site to give viewers a visual of the type of structure once there. Dennis will also be seeking help with permission to site signs; suggestions where to place them; and sign maker selection along with mounting and installation assistance.

Cataloging Database: Mary Ellen reported on ongoing research regarding a cataloging database purchase. Since the last meeting, she has contacted several users of PastPerfect for input, but is not yet ready to make a decision.

Wright Landing House: At last month's meeting Mary noted we should strive to have the same protections in place for items stored/displayed at the Town Hall or the Wright Landing House and suggested bringing Archival Preservation Specialist Ellen Dyer back for a consultation to evaluate the Wright Landing space. Gaye contacted Ellen who is willing to conduct her evaluation before the end of the year, so we could potentially apply for a grant with a February due date. Her fee would be \$480 plus r/t mileage from Thomaston. Discussion ensued. Gaye made a motion to hire Ellen to evaluate the property; Paul, 2nd; unanimously approved.

Jeff reported that installation of new flooring in the house won't be completed until spring. According to George, there is still a possibility that a jail crew will assist with the painting; Richard is working on specs. If there is a jail crew, one or two volunteers will be needed on site when the house is open. If we end up doing the painting, the more volunteers we can rally, the quicker we'll complete the job. Richard wants us to use a white color.

Website: Jeff reported that he has credentials for the website. Next steps are for Mary Ellen to get credentials and for them to sit down with Pedro for a training session to get the site started.

Cataloging: Jeff would like to set up winter cataloging sessions every three weeks from 11 am to 4 pm at the Town Hall. Members do not have to be there from 11-4 and may drop in and work as their schedules allow. Proposed dates are: January 12; February 2; February 23; March 15; and April 5. The process will continue as last year until database software is purchased.

Mary Ellen made a motion to adjourn at 8:09 pm; Dedee, 2nd; unanimously approved.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 7, at 6:30 pm at the Town Office.