

History Committee

January 26, 2022 at the History Center

Present: Joan Mason-Bradford, Jean Wilhelmsen-Exter, Mary Ellen Barnes, Jeff Tarbox, Dedee Greenleaf-Hodgdon and Gaye Wagner with Connie Ostis, John Henderson and Dennis Dunbar via Zoom

The meeting convened at 4:42 p.m. at the History Center.

Mary Ellen made a motion to approve the December Minutes; Jean, 2nd, unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Jeff reported that we had a good year financially -- ending with cash reserves. Our net income was just over \$10,000 including donations, events and memberships. Because the gala fundraising event was underwritten by the Froises, we had limited expenses – thank you Louana & Ted.

Wanting to focus on this year's budget planning, Jeff reviewed recurring expenses and expenses for publications, events, and exhibits. Open issues:

- He suggested we increase the percentage we pay for heating & cooling the History Center to 75% because we benefit from Helping Hands heating downstairs.
- We still need to improve our security system to monitor environmental conditions. Jason Kates is working on a proposal for an internet-based security system for the Town Hall; it would be beneficial to use the same system at the History Center.
- We need to estimate income and expenses for the 2022 budget – He is seeking suggested targeted amounts for dues, exhibits, events, etc. for 2022. Jeff invited input on 2022 budget allocations from all members via email.

The History Committee has about \$3,800 in the coffers; Catalogit was the primary expense that came out of History Committee funds.

Jean made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report; Dennis, 2nd; unanimously approved.

Remote Meeting Policy: Mary Ellen made a motion to adopt the Remote Participation Policy as drafted by the Town Clerk, Julie Casson; Joan, 2nd; unanimously approved. Julie will be notified so she can post the required Public Hearing to be held in advance of next month's regular history meeting to finalize adoption of the Remote Participation Policy.

Name Badges: Jean reported that name badges are in. They will be kept in HC1 for members to wear when staffing the History Center and special events.

Catalogit: Joan has been Cataloging the Colby-Greenleaf Collection with Gaye and would like to see a common approach/terminology for filling some of the fields, e.g., location descriptors; physical location of the item, etc. Gaye and Joan agreed to draft a discussion outline for a meeting of interested members – TBA.

WCA Newsletter: Dennis has written a piece for the WCA newsletter on the Lucas bequest at the north end of the island. In 1792, John Lucas, an original proprietor, bequeathed 111 acres of his land at the north end to the Wiscasset School Department. For many years, this land was considered a part of Wiscasset and was not included in Westport records; it came back into Town ownership through Wilmot Greenleaf in the mid-1800s.

Fort McDonough Subcommittee: John reviewed the group's visits to the Gross's, Rubly's and Meixell's properties. What can be done at these properties has been done, other than a possible return visit in the early spring to take measurements of distances to the road, water, and other physical landmarks. Work is now back to researching documentary evidence, including archaeologist Dr. Bradley's work at the Fort; records regarding the original layout of the Fort; and records relating to preparations for the "battle that never happened." John will also be visiting the Town Office to view the soil reports attached to building permits for the houses on the relevant properties to see if any notations were made regarding anything that may relate to the Fort during property excavations.

Winkley Cottage: Jeff reported that Fred Mielke will be demolishing and replacing the Winkley Cottage. Mr. Mielke would be open to donating any fixtures in the house (other than the stove) to the History Committee if we are interested. (Gaye's Winkley property photographs are now in Dropbox for viewing the cottage contents.)

Thank you to the Fogg's: Members signed a thank you card to Peter & Teresa Fogg, Fogg Art Restoration, for donating their services to reframe two paintings that were scanned for notecard images and donation of a mat.

The Friends of Westport Island History ("Friends")

Present: Same attendance. The meeting convened at 5:35 pm.

History Center Window: Richard Devries is researching what might have contributed to the crack in the front window. He has consulted other Wright Landing Committee members and is reviewing sales documents to research warranty and/or possible causal factors.

Workroom Lighting for HC Work Rooms: Mary Ellen would like to schedule a work session to install work lighting in HC2. Jeff, Jean & Mary Ellen agreed to meet the weekend of February 6.

This Coming Sunday's Public Hours at the History Center: Given the forecasted Northeaster, it was decided to cancel public hours on Sunday, January 30.

Event Committee: Joan and Dennis provided the following updates regarding events:

- There is no update on Professor Hall regarding a proposed program to explore the history of indigenous people in the area until the pandemic subsides;
- Dennis reported that he did not envision the Clough Point Plaque Installation being a public event per se – more of a Select Board/press event because of limited parking. It was suggested and agreed that interested Conservation Commission members and residents could be invited with a request to park at the boatyard and walk in – which would naturally keep numbers manageable. The commemoration event will be held on a Monday evening before a Select Board meeting in May; date TBD.
- A tent deposit has been paid for the Sunday, July 17, Tarbox fundraising event; table and chairs have been reserved from the Town Hall – still to be formally approved by the Select Board; David Kelley's Kel-Tones will be providing music – he has a \$300 fee to perform but he will then donate the \$300 back to the Friends; Jean will be designing announcements; WCA and the Horticulture Committee will provide floral arrangements for the tables; and Jeff and Dennis will be the event speakers. The event is targeted for 100 people.
- Before the "My Island Home" exhibit is taken down, we would still like to host a Colby-Greenleaf family event at the History Center; tentatively planned for spring.

Next Exhibit: The next History Center exhibit will be a Tarbox family exhibit, at least part of which will focus directly on the history to be highlighted in July's Tarbox fundraising event. Jean suggested we include relevant exhibit panels for display at the fundraising event. Jeff will be suggesting/providing some artifacts for the exhibit. Gaye is working on consolidating collection resources for the next exhibit and has added a "Tarbox Collections" folder to Dropbox.

Notecards/Book Sales: Notecards to replenish supplies are done – the envelopes will arrive later because of "supply chain issues". Cemetery Book reprints will be ordered.

Jeff made a motion to adjourn at 6:17 pm; Jean, 2nd; unanimously approved.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 23, at 4:30 pm, at the History Center.