

## The Friends of Westport Island History

July 15, 2021 at the History Center

**Present:** Mary Ellen Barnes, Dedee Greenleaf-Hodgdon, Callie Connor, Joan Mason-Bradford, Jean Wilhelmsen-Exter, Dennis Dunbar, Jeff Tarbox, Connie Ostis, Louana Frois, Paul Bonyun, and Gaye Wagner

The meeting convened at 4:05 p.m. at the History Center.

Jeff made a motion to consider both the Friends and the History Committee Minutes simultaneously as one document now and going forward; Dennis, 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimously approved. Jeff moved to approve the June minutes; Jean, 2<sup>nd</sup>; unanimously approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jeff reviewed the quarterly financials. Friends: notable for the last quarter -- \$605 in quilt raffle sales; \$180 membership dues; and \$760 donations. The largest expenses were \$1,053 for Board and General liability insurance; and \$300 for a fireproof file cabinet. Despite a slight loss for the quarter of \$106 because of the annual insurance payment, we are tracking well for the year and have \$8,554.80 in the bank. History Committee: \$1,940.88 in the operating budget and \$1,807.60 in the Money Market/Trust account for a total of \$3,748.48.

**Westport Island/Lincoln County Bicentennial Events:** Gaye reported that the Boothbay Railway Museum's Lincoln County Bicentennial history exhibits looked great. Photographs were taken of our "Mills Exhibit" and put on the Westport Island History Facebook page with visiting information.

Ryan LaRochelle, Lincoln County Bicentennial, has sent out the "Lincoln County Bicentennial Plus One Pilgrimage" guide listing the August 15-22 County events. Westport's listed event is the docent-led History Trail Driving Tour which will depart at 12 and 2 pm from the Ferry Landing on Sunday, August 15. The extended hours of the History Center are not listed; but as the staging area for the driving tours, the History Center is likely to see extra visitors with its extended 11 am-4 pm hours that day. The "My Island Home" team is also planning to hold a grand opening for the exhibit to coincide with the Lincoln County's Bicentennial kick off activities that day.

**Squam Creek History Alive Fundraiser:** Decisions:

- There will be 90 +/- tickets available for purchase with some complimentary tickets -- Friend \$20; Supporter \$50; Patron \$125 per person -- not per couple.
- There will be guests who will not be expected to pay, e.g., Selectmen, journalists, special donors, etc.
- Advance ticket sales only; it will be noted that the Friends is a 501(c)3.
- In the event of rain, the event will move to the barn.
- Some Islanders will get a mail invitation, including Friends' members, major donors, and those suggested by committee members. Joan requested suggested names for mailed invitations by Monday.
- Sandy Besecker has offered her 10'x10' E-Z Up tents for registration and sales (quilt raffle; history books, notecards, etc.) – Dedee and Paul can also bring canopies if needed. Two tables and chairs for the greeting tents will be borrowed from the Town Hall.
- A printed program that matches the invitation will outline the program and provide credits.
- Masks or no masks will depend on current Maine CDC recommendations.
- A sound system is needed. It was decided that a sound system would be a good investment for the Friends. Mary Ellen will see if the Community Association has one or would like to partner for a purchase. Jeff will talk with Jack Swanton as a technical expert for recommendations.
- A PayPal account will be established as one option for ticket purchases.
- There are two upcoming work meetings at Louana's house: July 23 at 10:30 and August 2 at 1:00 to work on invitations and advertising. 100 invitations will be ordered -- targeted to be mailed August 2.
- Handicapped parking will be allowed by the house; all other parking will be on and adjacent to West Shore Road. Dennis will map out a parking plan for 50 cars.
- Jean will research having a table cloth made with the Friends logo for the registration table.

**Annual Meeting:** The annual meeting for Friends will be on August 29 to: drawing the winner for the quilt raffle; elect Trustees and Officers; and provide a short program on the goals for the coming year and how to participate.

**Quilt Raffle:** The quilt will be displayed at the Town Hall during the yard sale on Saturday. Connie volunteered to assist from 11 am to 1 pm. The next Wiscasset Artwalks to display the quilt and sell tickets will be July 29 and August 26 from 5 pm to 8 pm. Volunteers are needed; Mary Ellen will be available on August 26.

### **History Committee**

**Present:** Same attendance plus Anne Cole-Fairfield; minus Paul Bonyun.

The meeting convened at 5:32 pm.

**Catalogit:** Jean reported that she and Ann Springhorn have been cataloging regularly; more scanning is needed next. Jean will distribute a recent Catalogit newsletter which highlights Eastport, another Maine user.

**New Acquisitions:** Appreciation was expressed for the following donations: 1) A print of a seaweed painting by Maizie Argondizza that could be used for a future edition of Friends notecards donated by Maizie; and 2) Two bayonets (1730-1862) and flints found on the beach at the southeast tip of the island donated by Joseph Shea.

**Cellar Holes Project:** As part of trying to identify and catalogue the cellar holes from the 1772 map, Dennis and Callie have been visiting sites on the island. With guidance from Kevin McMahon from the south end, they have documented some new cellar holes. Fifty-three sites have been identified on a map, sketches will be done of the cellar holes, and photos will be taken of houses still standing. The goal this year is to identify and document the sites; next year there will be deed research to identify the owners and possible builders. The 1772 and 1878 maps were digitized using a technique called rubber sheeting to view the old buildings and roads over the current tax maps. These will be uploaded to the CAI tax maps, so everyone can see the layers.

**History Center Sign:** Joe Ruzycki has agreed to make us a second sign with the words "History Center" to match the first "Westport Island" sign he donated; they will be displayed together to the right of the front door to identify the History Center. Jean is working on repurposing old signs from Drew Porter for a "sandwich sign" that can be used to direct visitors on the Main Road when we're open.

**Segerstrom Preserve Update:** Scavenger Hunt maps continue to be available at the Segerstrom Preserve. Dennis reported recently seeing some families sharing their successes having just completed the hunt. Callie brought up an incident in which a family member recently recovered an old cough bottle in one of the cellar holes. It was returned to where it was found; but she wondered if we should have a policy regarding found items so that we don't inadvertently lose pieces of the history. Dennis will follow up.

**History Center Staffing:** Current staffing: Dennis, 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday; Jean, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday; Mary Ellen, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday; and Jeff, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday. Deb has volunteered to cover a Sunday a month; and Joan and Dedee have agreed to fill in.

**Community Newsletter:** Jean will draft announcements for the upcoming Community Association newsletter for: "Squam Creek Alive" fundraiser; "My Island Home" exhibit; the History Trail tour; and the Friends annual meeting.

**The Oral History Project:** Connie and Dedee have started interviewing and audiotaping island elders and recently completed an enjoyable interview with Eben Greenleaf.

Jean made a motion to adjourn at 6:11 pm; Callie, 2<sup>nd</sup>; unanimously approved. The next meeting will be Thursday, August 19, at 4 pm, at the History Center.