

## History Committee

December 29, 2021 at the History Center

**Present:** Joan Mason-Bradford, Jean Wilhelmsen-Exter, Dennis Dunbar, Mary Ellen Barnes, John Henderson, Paul Bonyun and Gaye Wagner

The meeting convened at 4:36 p.m. at the History Center.

Jean distributed the Treasurer's report for review. As of December 19, the History Committee has \$3,748.48 including operational and trust funds; and the Friends has \$14,181.56. A complete year-end accounting will be in next month's report. Jeff is proposing some funding earmarks for consideration: dedication of funds for an intern or consultant to accomplish a task that would improve operations; an acquisitions fund; and/or a special purchase, e.g., preservation of an item or a portable photo studio to take digital images of objects – one of these proposed ideas might also be a focus of next year's fundraising. Joan made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report; Dennis, 2<sup>nd</sup>; unanimously approved.

Mary Ellen made a motion to approve the November Minutes; Joan, 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimously approved.

**Name Badges:** Jean reported that name badges have been ordered and will likely be here next week.

**Scanning/Dropbox:** Gaye started scanning Heal's Mill journals from the Elijah Pierce Family Collection. The items are being scanned into a folder on the History Committee "desktop". Items on the desktop are backed up into Dropbox. This means that anything scanned onto the laptop "desktop" can be viewed remotely by logging into Dropbox (username: [wihistorycommittee@gmail.com](mailto:wihistorycommittee@gmail.com); password: We\$tp0rtH!st0ry); looking at "All Files"; clicking on "PC", and then clicking on "desktop" to view any desktop content.

**Appreciation Gift:** Members agreed to send Mary Coventry, who resigned from the History Committee earlier this year, a framed vintage postcard of the Ferry Landing with an engraved thank you to commemorate her service and many contributions to the History Committee and the planning and development of the History Center.

**WCA Newsletter:** A piece on the Marie Antoinette House will be in the January issue of the WCA Newsletter thanks to Dennis.

**Clough Point Commemorative Plaque:** Dennis attended a Select Board meeting to brief them on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Clough Point Preserve and to seek their approval to install a commemorative plaque at the Preserve. They were supportive. A plaque will be created for approval with a tentative installation ceremony in May to recognize the Clough Point Association and the Selectmen who shepherded the process. George lent Dennis a Town file of Clough Point documents for review and scanning; and Bill Hopkins has donated Clough Point materials to the History Committee. Dennis would like the commemoration event to be a joint effort of the History Committee, the Selectmen, and the Conservation Commission.

**Fort McDonough Subcommittee:** Mary Ellen made a motion to officially create a Fort McDonough Subcommittee; Dennis, 2<sup>nd</sup>; unanimously approved. At a previous meeting, John Henderson, Dennis Dunbar and Jeff Tarbox volunteered to participate. John has started scanning research materials collected to date into a "Fort McDonough" file folder in the History Dropbox account. His outreach has resulted in a small research network including Leith Smith, Maine Historical Commission; Sheila McDonald, Maine State Museum; and Jim Kochan, an antiquities dealer in Wiscasset. One of the efforts of this group is to track down "lost" Fort McDonough survey work done by Dr. Robert Bradley of the Maine Preservation Commission in the 1980s. Kochan thinks he knows the person in DC who worked with Bradley and will follow up. A review of Wiscasset Library archival files is almost complete. Northend families who own land occupied by the fort – the Grosses, the Rublys, and the Meixells -- are

open to a visit from subcommittee members to evaluate their land for any remaining vestiges. This research will not only increase our understanding of the Fort, but also of Westport's role in the War of 1812.

**Remote Meeting Policy:** Joan made a motion to pursue the adoption of a Remote Meeting Policy and to work with the Town Clerk in setting up the required Public Hearing; Mary Ellen, 2<sup>nd</sup>; unanimously approved.

### **The Friends of Westport Island History ("Friends")**

**Present:** Same attendance. The meeting convened at 5:40 pm.

**Workroom Lighting for HC Work Rooms:** Work lighting has been installed in HC1; safety and "cosmetics" are being refined. Please be gentle when using the pull cords to turn the lights on/off.

**UV Film:** Maine Sun Solutions will be on site to install the UV film on Wednesday, January 5 at 8:30 am -- unsure how long installation will take. Jean will finalize the schedule and take the first "shift" at 8:30 but would like volunteers to take over around 11. Furniture will need to be moved in advance of the work to provide a five-foot clearance in front of the windows. Jean will follow up with a time to move furniture; volunteers are needed.

**Notecards & Sales:** It was agreed to do a "fill-in" order of up to 100 notecards to resupply shortages in individual cards and to replenish the supply of new notecard packages.

**Book Reprints:** Julie has given permission to reprint and retain the proceeds of the current edition of the Cemetery Book. She advises a limited printing because an updated version is planned for this winter. It was decided to reprint 5 copies to have some sale copies available until a new edition has been completed.

**Year-end Note of Appreciation:** Mary Ellen is drafting a year-end note for Friends members which will focus on 2021 accomplishments -- exhibits, programs, the Bicentennial, and the startup of digital cataloging -- with a wrap-up call for volunteers. She is envisioning a two-page note generously illustrated. Stay tuned for a draft.

**Event Committee:** Joan provided the following update from the Event Committee:

- A tent has been reserved for the July Tarbox event;
- The July event will be focused on two Tarbox brothers, Cornelius and Samuel – Cornelius stayed on the West Shore, and Samuel's estate centered mid-island at the "Inn". Like most siblings, they did not always see eye to eye. Callie and Jeff are working on the lens through which this story will be developed;
- Given current public health concerns, Joan is leery of an inside February event to celebrate Verlie's birthday. She suggested that a Spring event allowing more of an outside focus might be more appropriate. Members agreed;
- Callie has followed up with Professor Hall from Bates College regarding the proposed program to explore the history of indigenous people on the island and in the area. He does not want to do anything inside during the pandemic; again, this will be more realistic in the spring or summer.

**Calendar:** Joan has developed a Calendar and is working on details before distribution.

Mary Ellen made a motion to adjourn at 6:14 pm; Joan, 2<sup>nd</sup>; unanimously approved.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 26, at 4:30 pm, at the History Center.