

Davis Meeting House Society, Inc.

Meeting Minutes – February 17, 2014

The meeting of the Davis House Meeting House Society was called to order by President Maryanne Douglas at 7:05 at the Swezey House in Yaphank, NY.

Members in Attendance:

Maryanne Douglas, Betsy Bloomer, Bonnie Cornett, Kathy Sher, Chris Reilly, Robert Kessler, Jeff Davis, Steve Lucas, Jean Hartling, Mildred Zimmermann, Barbara Hoff, Tom Gaidry

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January 6, 2014 meeting that had been previously distributed by email were approved.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was previously distributed by email. Total assets are \$1,871.96. The report will be filed.

Membership Report

Chris had reported via email that there are 24 members. The report will be filed.

Historian's Report – there was no report. Maryanne read an online article about William L. Davis' house in Coram which was purchased in 1826.

Old Business

Maryanne gave a summary of the meeting with the town regarding grants where they discussed some of the issues such as that the town has not received reimbursement for some of the exterior work completed that she had brought up in an email prior to the meeting. The town's response to her email on these issues has been filed. They say the State has not approved all of the work as it did not meet requirements.

New Business

- Maryanne summarized the meeting with Sarah Anker. Sarah said she would have her people look at the rest of our 501c3 paperwork. She was hoping to meet with a lawyer to look at it. She said we should get letters of support and also take pictures of the interior.
- There was discussion of who to send letters to asking for support. It was agreed to send them to all on the Coram Civic Association list. We should use official names, "Lester H. Davis House" and "Davis Town Meeting House Society Inc."?
- Bob said the first thing we need to do is get a detailed plan for the house. We need to do things ourselves because the town would use the money up too quickly.
- Maryanne reported that she had contacted the Society of Preservation of LI Antiquities (SPLIA) for information about a TAG grant.
- The question of what kind of agreement do we have with the Town of Brookhaven was asked. Do we have written permission to manage the funds? Liability insurance was discussed. Bob said it costs about \$1,000 for their houses.
- Chris said we need to get the membership drive going. We can't do fund drives until we get 501(c)(3).

- Maryanne questioned the cost estimate of finishing the interior. Chris said at the meeting that someone said \$2,000,000 is about right as far as the cost to finish the interior.
- Mildred said the Colonial Dames XVII Century approved the wording of the plaque and read the letter from the President General.
- Heating – Bob said we should use a hot air system. As we won't need radiators we should sell them.
- Maryanne mentioned that she would like to have a yard sale in September again. We would need to start earlier for the yard sale.
- Bob mentioned the Brookhaven Industrial Group. He had sent them a generic letter to ask for donations and received some donations from them.
- Maryanne mentioned LI Builders Association.
- Bob said prevailing wages are difficult –which is why we need to do things for ourselves. He said the Davis House is a restoration, not a renovation like the Swezey House.
- Why isn't the town giving us more help on grants? Chris said we have to get back in with Connie Kepert and ask her about grant writing.
- Chris mentioned that most of the money needs to come from grants, donations and membership dues.
- Suggestions for contacting businesses were discussed. Steve said it helped for the Patchogue Historical Society and we can use their letter for guidelines.
- Maryanne reminded us to work on a wish list. Everyone on the committee should think of a wish list of things they would like done for the house. Then getting the word out about the Davis House was discussed. A table at Longwood Day was suggested. Also suggested was visiting groups and telling about the House and the Society.
- Contacting the Rotary or Lions Club was suggested. Jeff said he did not believe that would not work.
- Maryanne asked Mildred to ask if the Suffolk County Historical Society would be willing to allow someone to come to a meeting to talk about the Davis House and Mildred said she would.
- Jean Hartling corrected her email address.

Next Meeting: will be on March 3, 2014, at the Swezey House. The next two would be on April 14 and May 5.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Betsy Bloomer
 Recording Secretary Meeting Minutes – February 17, 2014