

**Davis Town Meeting House Society
Membership Meeting Minutes – April 2, 2018**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Maryanne Douglas followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present: Maryanne Douglas, Vana McClure, Jean Hartling, Claire Gray, Robert Kessler, Barbara Hoff, Chris Reilly, Steve Lucas, Suzanne Johnson, Margaret Guardi, Gail Lynch Baily, Ellen Kushner and Erma Gluck (13 Members).

Approval of Minutes: Barbara Hoff moved to accept the March 5, 2018 minutes with the following two corrections regarding progress on the Davis House: *“The upstairs plastering work cannot yet be done due to a lack of funds”* and *“The Town will provide \$3,000.00 for work on the staircase”*. Second by Ellen Kushner; approved.

Treasurer’s Report(Chris Reilly): The current balance is \$10,604.07.

Membership Report (Barbara Hoff): There are 83 members to date.

Historian’s Report: Suzanne Johnson reported on new information about the Goldsmith Davis desk in storage at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The desk had been featured in the American Wing at the MET and a photo of it appears on the MET website as well as in an older publication of [American Furniture at the MET](#). Liz Kaplan, one of our meeting speakers, is docent at the MET and can help us with file research. A field trip to see the desk was suggested.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. [Davis Family Memorial](#) – The Memorial begins on Saturday, April 7 at 3:00PM and will take place inside the new Coram Fire House due to the inclement weather. Three Scout troops will provide an Honor Guard. Gail Bailey will provide Maryanne with the names of those participating. A donation of furniture will be stored at the School House. Help is needed for clean up and organization of materials stored there. On Friday, April 6 at 11:30AM the following people volunteered to help: Maryanne Douglas, Steve Lucas, Suzanne Johnson, Barbara Hoff, Jean Hartling and Vana McClure. The caterer has visited the Swezey Avey House and will set up for the event on Friday evening. During the internment, Society members may travel to the Swezey Avey House to wait for family members to arrive.
2. [Victorian Tea](#) – Ellen Kushner reported on progress of the Tea. Plans are well under way. Additional help will be needed with the clean up beginning at 4:00PM. There will be a final planning meeting on Saturday, April 28, 10:00AM at Maryanne Douglas’ house.

3. June 4th Meeting Speaker – Margaret Gaurdi reported that Bob Winowich, retired 3rd Regiment Commander and now Historian, will speak about our local Revolution history, Nathaniel Norton and the Norton Dare house. Suggestions are needed for future speakers. Claire Gray suggested Robert Strum on the History of the Long Island Railroad; the Manor of St. George was also suggested.

4. Norton House Discussion – Information was shared by those who visited the house Friday, March 31 and the article published by Newsday was circulated. A formal commitment from a non-profit group to restore and maintain the property is required by the county in order to save it. It was recommended that Bob Kessler and Suzanne Johnson invite Jeremiah McGiff to visit the house on Tuesday, April 3 at 2:00PM to determine its structural integrity and determine the potential for saving it. Additional discussions with John Kennedy and Sarah Anker may be needed. Fencing around the property needs to be secured as a section collapsed due to an auto accident.

5. Gardiner Foundation Grant Opportunities – Suzanne Johnson provided update on research into the types of funding possible and grant requirements. Technology and interactive exhibits seem to be preferred projects. Since the current round requires applications be due in ten days, it was decided we wait for the August round to gather additional information needed. Suggested projects include: training for volunteers on how to handle archival materials, capacity building (hire an authority to analyze how to use interior of house), and Past Perfect Software for archival materials.

NEW BUSINESS:

Suffolk County Omnibus Grant – Maryanne Douglas led a discussion on budget ideas for the \$6,000.00 grant. The following were proposed: Past Perfect Software and Supplies \$1,533.00; stamps \$250.00; ink cartridges \$250.00; Newsletter \$268.00; 3rd Regiment \$500.00; Guest Speaker fees \$500.00. Any remaining balance to be used for building supplies and paint.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 8:15PM with a motion by Barbara Hoff; second by Steve Lucas.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jean Hartling