

Davis Town Meeting House Society, Inc.

Meeting Minutes – October 6, 2014

The meeting of the Davis Town Meeting House Society was called to order by President Maryanne Douglas at 7:00 at the Avey Swezey House in Yaphank, NY.

Members in Attendance: Maryanne Douglas, Mildred Zimmermann, Bonnie Cornett, Betsy Bloomer, Robert Kessler, Barbara Hoff, Jean Hartling, Vana McClure, Tom Gaidry, Gail Lynch-Bailey, Jeff Davis, Chris Reilly, John Kirschenherter, Bert Seides, and Van Johnson.

The *Pledge of Allegiance* was recited.

The members in attendance introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the September 8, 2014 meeting that had been previously distributed by email were approved with a change from Bob Kessler that the reference to “plaster” be removed. Barbara Hoff seconded.

Treasurer’s Report

The Treasurer’s Report was previously distributed by email. Total assets are \$3,746.75. The report will be filed.

Membership Report

There are 62 members and two business memberships.

Historian – Mildred Zimmermann has a video of old houses of Coram.

OLD BUSINESS

Yard Sale:

- Maryanne said the profit from the yard sale was \$955.00. Most of the profit was from the tables. The vendors said the yard sale was very good and that they wanted to return next year.
- All of the young helpers from the school will get certificates for helping.
- Maryanne said thanks for the sunflowers and the person who donated the boxes. There is liquor left over.
- The painted numbers didn’t work, will use stakes in lawn next year.
- Next Year Maryanne wants to coordinate with other groups as far as date.

Jean mentioned that the shed should be filled in and that it was dangerous and ugly.

Arcadia Book Company – Would cost no money out of our pocket. Paul Infranco said he will help but not coordinate.

Betsy reported on the October 25th ‘Marking’ by the Colonial Dames XVII Century and a discussion followed on what needs to be done.

- Should ask Channel 12
- Would be nice to have a sponsor sign
- Betsy showed draft of poster showing the Davis House before renovation, during renovation and current picture of exterior. Burt said the in progress picture should be removed.
- Need directions from the Davis House to the Swezey Avey House
- Membership flyers will be on hand.
- Van said the Fire Department would provide: a microphone, a flag, a podium, chairs
- Barbara Russell’s comments will be in the Program

- Need chairs on porch and in front of porch
- We need steps for porch – Maryanne will contact Ed Morris
- Food ideas – donuts, brownies, cookies, cakes, tea sandwiches (?)
- Drinks – coffee, apple cider, wine

Maryanne wants some things done to the house that are not interior related and can be done now.

A discussion of Bob Kessler’s meeting with Ed Morris on September 22, 2014 followed. His report on this meeting has been filed with the minutes but some points that were mentioned were that there are structural defects in the house that the Town needs to fix, a furnace was needed in the house so it can be worked on and electricity is needed, at least a box in the basement for now has to be put in.

We need 501-3c status to get grants and donations. We can use inmates too for cleanup and carpentry.

Bert Seides shared some advice.

- When we raise funds we should say that we will use as much original material as possible.
- If we go to a Historic District Advisory Committee (HDAC) meeting it needs to be made clear that we have regular meetings, are planning to follow approved plan of NY State Parks. He is concerned for future funding streams. Asking town for funds may not work as far as managing an historic house as that is not their business.
- Be prepared with a list of wonderful uses for the house, such as educational programs.
- Get young people to love the building.
- Tailor to the needs of the community. Clubs, etc.
- Get a Letter of Commission from Town to support us getting support from NY State Parks.
- Support from NY State Parks are matching grants. Everything has to be PDF online. It is a very rigorous process. But we are not 501c3 yet so cannot get large donations.
- County would not want to do parking so need another use for county land when asking for land either as steward or to own.
- Ask if grants are closed out. Maryanne said they are not. He said to ask Barbara at HDAC meeting about the status of grants. Then write a letter to Barbara saying we are prepared to move the grants process on to closing and ask what we can do to help this move along. Send copy to council person and others we work with. This gets the issue on the public record.
- Maryanne asks to be placed on agenda for HDAC. Liaison is Amy. The next meeting is October 14.

Burt said he is not representing the town board but representing himself. We thanked him for coming.

Maryanne said there is a Town Board Meeting on November 13th. She will ask to get on the agenda at 4:30 and then get three minutes each. Will bring four people.

Van said the fire department would be happy to move wood next to shed into shed to keep it dry over the winter.

We need a number “263 for the house.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betsy Bloomer

Recording Secretary