

Isle au Haut Historical Society Annual Meeting
August 23, 2018
Minutes

Attending: Tom Guglielmo, Acting President, Pat Cole, Bob Smith, Allen Myers

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Acting President Tom Guglielmo.

The Treasurer, Brenda Clark, had a commitment off island and was not present. For this reason, a formal treasurer's report was not presented. It was noted that there had been no major expenses or income since the last meeting on August 9, 2018, and the assets of the Society thus remain in excess of \$8,000. This annual meeting marks the point at which dues for the coming year at \$10 are to be paid by the membership.

The minutes of the last meeting, August 9, 2018, were unanimously approved.

The Society-sponsored lecture by David Townsend on August 9, 2018 was discussed. It was considered to have been an excellent presentation for those in the audience who were scientifically versed, but difficult to follow for more general audience members. It was noted that this may be an acceptable characteristic of presentations targeted to the mixed audience typical of Isle au Haut, but that there should be a mix of presentations to assure that accessible material of interest for all is provided over a series of lectures. The lecture by David Townsend was approximately 1 hour prior to the question and answer session, and it was noted that future speakers should be specifically advised to limit their formal presentations prior to questions to no more than 40-45 minutes.

It was noted that the position of Vice President of the Society still is unfilled. It was decided to leave this position open at present and seek to identify and obtain a commitment for a Vice President during the coming year.

Suggestions for speakers for the 2019 summer were discussed. Candidates discussed were Carl Wilson (speaking on lobsters), Kathie Fiveash (speaking on her search for her family roots in Iceland), Jeff Runge (oceanographer—possibly speaking on changes in fauna in the intertidal zone), Peter Ralston (speaking on his time in the Pacific Northwest). Bob Smith agreed to contact Jeff Runge and explore the possibility of him speaking). Additionally, Pat Cole will talk with Libby Eustis about the putting together a talk on Isle au Haut artists. People associated with the church are working on a new addition of the cookbook, including further histories of houses on Isle au Haut, and it was noted that this material might ultimately support a presentation on the houses on the island.

It was the consensus of the group that the Society-sponsored presentations should over time include a spectrum of talks on the history, the people, and the science/natural history/oceanography of Isle au Haut.

It was noted that the Great Cranberry Island Historical Society will be transported to Isle au Haut on the Sunbeam on August 28, 2018, will attend the church service that morning, and then will attend a luncheon in Town Hall together with the available members of the Isle au Haut Historical Society and interested members of the community. Kendra Chubbuck is coordinating the luncheon and requests assistance with set-up on Saturday evening, August 25. It is estimated that 40-50 people will be in attendance and contributions of food from multiple community members have been arranged. Among the IAH Historical Society members, Tom Guglielmo will assist in set-up and will speak briefly at the luncheon about the IAH Historical Society and our interest in obtaining advice and guidance from the Great Cranberry Historical Society. Kris Carlson-Lewis and Pat Cole are providing baked goods. Allen Myers will lead the church service and also will coordinate a tour of the island school. If there is interest from the Great Cranberry visitors, it was suggested that Brenda Clark might be able to show them some of the historical materials stored in Town Hall.

There was discussion of whether the Historical Society should make a request for additional funds from the town this coming year. It was suggested that a request be made for \$2000. Pat Cole will pursue this possibility with First Selectman Peggy Stevens. It was noted that the Town may be reluctant to commit additional funds, since the Society has a balance in excess of \$8000 and does not have a clear plan for utilization of the funds.

As a next step in better defining our goals and needs, Bob Smith agreed to work with Brenda Clark and others on defining the scope of the historical materials held by or otherwise available to the Society. The initial goal will be to generate a list of holdings that will make it possible to define the space needed for their consolidated storage.

With this information available, the Society then can develop a draft design of space that would accommodate climate-controlled storage of the materials, plus suitable space for display (possibly as a rotating exhibit) and for individuals to work with the materials. The members present felt that this would be helpful in identifying specific space or a building plan, a site on the island, needed building and maintenance costs, and interest from potential donors.

The need for a protocol on responding to outside requests for photos in the Society collections was discussed. It was decided that for the time being, we will provide photo-copies or digital photos or scans of specific photographs requested from us on a case-by-case basis. Requests for original materials will require a more formal protocol for which we are not yet prepared. Until such a plan is developed and approved, original materials in Society holdings will not leave the Island.

The date for the next Society board meeting was tentatively set for July 18, 2019 at 10 AM in Town Hall.

Marie Hamlin recently underwent eye surgery, and a card for her was signed by the Society members.

In regard to goals for the next year, in addition to the potential presentations noted above, Tom expressed interest in organizing another "Story Night," similar to what was done in 2017. This was generally endorsed by the Society members present, and Allen Myers specifically suggested the importance of including the island school children in the story telling, as was done in 2017.

There additionally was noted the need to recruit more members to the Society and that this should include in particular an effort to bring in younger members. This might include efforts to identify Point Lookout residents as new members, since it was noted that many of the houses there are undergoing a generational turnover, with increased used by young adult members of the various families.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11 AM.

As an addendum to these minutes, it is noted for individuals who may wish to reach former Society president Harold van Doren that his current address is 38 Shoreland Drive, Lopez Island, WA 98261.

Respectfully submitted: Robert J. (Bob) Smith, acting secretary for this meeting.