

Isle au Haut Historical Society Annual Meeting Minutes

September 1, 2021
Carlson-Lewis residence

Attending: Tom Guglielmo, Kristen Carlson-Lewis, Bob Smith, Stew Foelix, Wendall Chamberlain, Billy Barter; Harold van Doren via Zoom.

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m. by Acting President, Tom Guglielmo.

Appreciation expressed by Tom Guglielmo of past presidents, Barbara Brown and Harold van Doren and current Board members Bob Smith and Kris Carlson-Lewis for their time and commitment to the Historical Society.

The minutes of the annual meeting of August 28, 2019 and the Zoom informational meeting of May 6, 2021 were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report (submitted by Brenda Clark): Tom Guglielmo noted that he has requested recent bank statements be shared with the board. Tom G. made a motion that a second person be added to bank account access in the future and nominated Kris Carlson-Lewis; seconded with unanimous approval. The Treasurer's Report was submitted by Brenda Clark; there is a current balance of \$8,305.92. For accountability purposes, Bob Smith recommended that future treasurer reports categorize the source, amount and purpose of expenses as well as monies received.

Introduction of Wendall Chamberlain as a representative of the "Friends of the Lighthouse Committee" [FLC]. Wendall shared that the FLC would like to donate one of the cedar bricks installed in the lighthouse's inner wall to the historical society. These cedar bricks were found during the renovation. Wendall noted the detachment of some inner wall sections from the outer walls was due to missing or failed header brick interlocks, mostly around iron beam supports. The workers couldn't determine causes. They were either missing or cracked due to settling or seismic activity. The cedar bricks were used every sixth course to support a wooden lathe system for plaster. This is the only lighthouse in Maine where this was done to Wendall's knowledge. Wendall offered to provide a short summation to clarify the significance of the role of the cedar brick within the lighthouse structure. Wendall commented the collaboration between our two organizations was important due to the significance of the lighthouse to the historical society and community given the culture and history of seafaring to the island. At the last meeting of the FLC, their board voted to have a representative from their organization serve on the board of the IAH Historical Society and attend our meetings. Bob Smith made a motion that a member of the IAH HS board become a member of the FLC pending approval of this board, seconded by Tom G., unanimously approved. Bob Smith made a second motion that we accept Sue Chamberlain as the current member of FLC on our board, seconded by Tom G., unanimously approved. [Later, Wendall noted the FLC, possibly with the HS, can negotiate a concession from the town to legally oversee joint activities and functions at the Lighthouse.]

Tom G. shared that he had received a letter from Harold van Doren addressing land and/or a home for the historical society; discussion ensued. Barbara Brown previously addressed housing issues with regard to the historical society. Tom G. noted prior discussions of obtaining land, a more recent offer of a building with land from Bill Stevens as well as a proposed church and historical society joint endeavor. He offered an example of the Great Cranberry Isle Historical Society: initially, use of a schoolhouse for displays until the school went out of existence; later, a former restaurant was moved to a site bequeathed to their historical society. Needed funds were raised and the building reconfigured with a positive outcome. Their initial focus was not housing the collections but that issue is now being addressed. Tom G. visited the former [burnt] Chapin house undergoing renovations by Bill Stevens; Bill suggested the house as an option for the IAHS with contingencies. If the IAHS is interested in obtaining a location other than the Town Hall, Bob Smith envisioned a design that reflects an historic fisherman's shack, two rooms with a temperature-controlled back room and a front room with displays/exhibits, work table, and a small footprint. It should include the anticipated cost of maintenance including temperature

control. Harold van Doren proposed exploring a building with the NP as another option. All input appreciated per Tom G.

Digitization: Bob Smith led discussion regarding what to do with the current collections and storage, and a plan of action to digitize materials in a way that brings them into a uniform system that continues to be workable in the future, i.e. not ending up on someone's computer and thus vulnerable to being lost. He entertained the purchase of a website estimated at \$2,000 vs. a web-based entity. Research of all of these options and an assessment should be conducted at the same time including what we have/what has previously been done. This would include a good digital record of what we have, subgrouping materials by historical importance and determining what is of interest to the community. Potential transfer of some materials to a more appropriate location was mentioned. Consider what is financially feasible. Bottom line = preservation. Harold notes we have lost old town reports, photos, etc. Harold van Doren is bringing thumb drives with materials he has scanned in past...to be put on a number of our computers for the interim.

Annual events have all been cancelled this year and rescheduled for next year including a potential couple's night. Wendall noted the FLC will have a large celebration next year to celebrate the completed renovations of the lighthouse and hopes the historical society will participate in this venture.

Newsletter: published our third newsletter this past winter with positive feedback. Tom G. noted he is looking for leads for future articles.

Brief return to land discussion: Billy Barter and Tom G. to speak with Kennedy family descendants regarding ownership of land across from the town hall.

Website update: Tom G. noted he would like to see further improvements be made. Appreciation expressed to Stew for setting up an email address for the historical society and for the large group email list. Kris noted Anastasia Weigle had a few comments regarding the HS website.

One of the Isle au Haut ANP rangers is organizing a work group for restoration of the Hamilton Cemetery and seeks interested volunteers from our organization to assist with plans. Recommendation of a group email to inform/publicize the event such as the informal island Facebook page with contact information for this event suggested. Potential future partnering with NP on other projects.

Tom G. made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kris. Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Kristen Carlson-Lewis,
Acting Recording Secretary