

Groton Historical Society  
Meeting Tuesday, July 19, 2022  
3:00 p.m. at the Peter Paul House

Present: President Deborah Jurist, Vice-President Brent Smith, Treasurer Susan Pelkey Smith, Secretary Phyllis Burke, Sarah Spira, Dave Spencer, Cheryl LeTourneau, Dave Pierce, Wayne Knott

Deborah called the meeting to order at 3:00 and reminded us that this will be a planning meeting for the August 27th open house on the topic of property history.

- 1) **Maps.** Deborah introduced Wayne Knott, who described his lifetime experience with maps, and his continued knowledge of them. We are hoping he can be a map reference person on August 27<sup>th</sup> to help with property searches.

A discussion of road names followed. Brent noted that up until the late 1980s there were no house numbers and no consistent road names in Groton. Highway numbers are the oldest and most consistent record; the highway maps are all online. Wayne says the Town Clerk's office has one. He'll ask Dorothy to find one, and will look around for more maps. Sarah will try to find a Chandler map of Groton, and suggested setting up a "map station". Susan had brought the large-scale Beers Atlas map of Groton that she had ordered. All agreed it should be laminated. Cheryl will take this map to Copies and More when she takes the abridged Peter Paul House title search to be copied. She will have copies made for each of us to use as reference at the open house. Sarah suggested we have an inventory of and samples of maps available for folks to use in researching their properties.

- 2) **Minutes of the meeting of June 28<sup>th</sup>.** Brent moved and Susan seconded a motion to accept the minutes. All approved.
- 3) **Terry Miller newsletter update.** Terry will get back to us with templates for the layout. We may need an editor. She will get back to us about that.
- 4) **Passwords.** Deborah and Susan will print their lists of website and bank passwords, to be kept by them and Phyllis.

- 5) **Open House on August 27<sup>th</sup> – “Your House History”**. Hours will be 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Sandwich Board sign will say “YOUR HOUSE HISTORY, AUGUST 27<sup>TH</sup> 10-2, MAPS – TITLES – GENEALOGY” Sarah will put the letters on the sign and will take it outside at the end of July.

Deborah will put the event on Facebook and will ask Carrie to put it on the town rolling sign. Dave suggested putting notice on GHS website. Deb will write, and Sarah will add to website.

We will have our books and puzzles available for sale. Susan will order 15 more copies of Mr. Glover’s Groton. We have enough of everything else.

Deborah has made a list of the topics covered in each chapter of Mr. Glover’s Groton to put on website, and to have as handouts on Aug. 27<sup>th</sup>. Phyllis, Wayne, and Jim Kuhnenn will review and edit.

Jackie Bailey, who worked for an attorney, may be there to answer questions about title searches.

Reg Welch, who keeps a genealogy database of Groton families, will be able to attend to help with family history questions.

Deborah will ask Town Clerk Carrie Peters if she can come to answer questions about searching the Groton Land Records.

Handouts: Title search worksheet from Allen, Sarah’s brochure with summary of references for property research, Deborah’s list of chapter topics from Mr. Glover’s Groton, Phyllis’s notes on searching the Groton Land Records, inventory of maps, membership forms, book and puzzle order forms.

We may re-run the house history theme on Fall Foliage Day.

6) **Items to be tabled for later consideration.**

Wifi access: Terrance thinks we can get Wifi for the Peter Paul House. We discussed options: a repeater? an extender? beaming from the library? Maybe we could get a grant to help with cost.

Sarah: Make available tours of the Peter Paul House. Deborah: We should have a meeting to plan tours. Dave Spencer suggested every other Saturday morning, so that kids could attend.

Wayne has ideas for programs from other museums and from fairs.

Dave Spencer: Update website and Facebook to include information about our meetings and Fall Foliage.

Cheryl: Could we republish Waldo Glover's book about old Scotland and stone houses?

Sarah suggested making a template for logs to track closing procedures – lights out, doors locked.

Deborah: In the survey to be included in newsletters, include meeting times, and the ties between the historical society and the Groton Free Public library, plus resources at the library.

**The next meeting will be August 16, 2022 at 10:00 a.m., for checking resources and cleaning and setting up for the open house.**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Phyllis Burke