

Groton Historical Society

Meeting Tuesday, June 28, 2022

3:00 p.m. at the Peter Paul House

Present: President Deborah Jurist, Vice-President Brent Smith, Treasurer Susan Pelkey Smith, Recording Secretary Phyllis Burke, Tonya Palmer, Sarah Spira, Allen Goodine (arrived 3:40)

- 1) Deborah called the meeting to order at 3:10. She moved, and Phyllis seconded, a motion to accept the minutes of the June 1 meeting. All approved.
- 2) **Update on Terry Miller's help with domain issue and website.** Terry sent a note about the website host GoDaddy, which charges for the domain and separately for the website. Deborah suggests getting a Last Pass account with one password. To Terry's suggestion that we have a spreadsheet of all our accounts and contact information relating to the website, Deborah offered to try making a Google spreadsheet with passwords for the website. Sarah suggested keeping a printed copy at the PPH. Susan and Deborah will keep the bank passwords separately.
- 3) **Newsletter.** Summer newsletters are ready to go. Willard has let us know that the fall newsletter will be his last. Discussion followed about how to proceed. Format? Frequency? Suggestions included printing some of Mark Bushnell's ([VT Digger](#)) articles, soliciting membership for material and assistance, asking Terry Miller if she'd prepare a template, reprinting old articles, designing a survey for membership, online or on paper to be included in newsletter. Sarah and Allen both offered to be involved.
- 4) **August open house with focus on property history.** Deborah stressed the importance of families and their histories in searching for property history. She has invited Reg Welch to attend the open house, to help with genealogy questions.

Allen added Groton Land Records, maps, and other material from the Town Clerk's Office as important resources. A discussion of maps and the original town divisions followed. Deborah distributed a copy of the original divisions map, and a copy of an 1858 map of the village. Allen showed us the Beers Atlas map of Groton (1870s), and said larger copies are available online. He and Susan will investigate purchasing one. Deborah made a motion, seconded by ? to buy a new Beers map. Brent mentioned that Wayne Knott is a map expert. Sarah will reach out to him.

Title searches from Land Records. Martin McGowan, the "Legal Beagle," has done a search of the Peter Paul House. Deborah is hoping someone can condense it for easier access. Brent suggested finding out who else in the area does professional title searches. Allen suggested that someone write a step-by-step process for title searches. Phyllis will check with Town Clerk Carrie about the procedure for using the Land Records in Groton, and find out if the Land Records are online on the town website. She'll draft a list of procedures, cost, if any, etc.

Phyllis said some people will be interested in the architecture of their house, and in using architectural features to date their house. Sarah noted that there are multiple access points for information on property history. She will check the library, with Tonya's help, for resources available at the library. She'll also draft a little brochure or sheet listing resources to put at the library, have at the open house, and put online.

- 5) **Peter Paul House access and keys.** We discussed procedure for members borrowing items from the house. Sarah offered to draft a sign-out sheet or book to record things borrowed from the house. We also discussed who has keys. Currently Deborah, Brent, Matt Nunn, Sarah, Phyllis, and Susan Pelkey Smith have keys. Some sets were tested to see which open the front door, so Dwaine can repair the front door threshold.
- 6) **Media update.** Sarah has checked our website with Google Analytics and reported how hits to the website were distributed. Newsletters are the second most viewed. She also has more content that can be added to website.
- 7) **Donations.** Judy Chandler, long-time Groton resident who has just moved to St. Johnsbury, has offered baby "soakers" (pre-plastic diaper covers), hand-knit by her grandmother. All agreed to accept. Phyllis will pick up from Judy.

Received in the mail, "The Pastor's Own Work Book, the Minister's Diary Volume 1: 1936-1949" by Reverend Albert S. Anderson. Sent to us by his granddaughter, Tira Pandolf, PhD of Northampton, MA.

- 8) **Cleaning of PPH.** Tonya offered to clean the PPH before the August open house.

9) Items to be tabled for later consideration:

Include a survey in newsletter for feedback on favorite parts of newsletter, for contributions of content and photos, editor?, and update of email addresses. Also have survey online so we know how many are comfortable with online newsletters.

Allen offered to work with Brent and maybe Wallace Hood to identify places Waldo Glover referred to in Mr. Glover's Groton. Maybe put up plaques on buildings.

Allen would like to check all the books in the PPH for condition, importance to Groton, etc. Maybe some can be sold.

The next meeting will be July 19, 2022 at 3:00 in the PPH.

After reviewing the jobs each member will complete this summer, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis Burke