

DRAFT, SUBJECT TO REVIEW, CORRECTION AND APPROVAL

DUNBARTON HISTORICAL AWARENESS COMMITTEE

February 23, 2015, 6:30 Meeting - Town Offices

Members Present: Lynn Aramini, Tiffany Dodd, Donna Dunn, Les Hammond, Gail & Leo Martel, Bill Zeller

Members Absent: Laraine Allen, Ken Swayze, Alison & Ted Vallieres

Les made a motion to approve the minutes of the 1/26/15 meeting, seconded by Leo.

A warm welcome was extended to new members Leo & Gail Martel.

Donna recently contacted Priscilla Reinertsen, who spearheaded the 1992 warrant article forming the DHAC, to learn more about its roots (25th anniversary 2017.) Priscilla has since sent the group an inspiring email:

Hi Donna,

It was indeed a pleasant surprise when you called a few days ago. And what fun to talk with you! I am so pleased that you are carrying on the mission of the Historical Awareness Committee. As the Dunbarton Historical Society was not founded with an educational vision, then it is up to the Dunbarton Historical Awareness Committee to be the organization that supports the teachers with their town history lessons, and that does so in a way that makes it interesting and fun for the school children. The mission of the DHAC was not limited to children, but I think herein lies a special niche. Our present situations always lie in the cradle of the past. We move forward with insights from the community of those who lived in former years. Context and perspective, if sought, guide us towards better and better decisions.

If you can use the media of today as you assist with the historical education of Dunbarton's youngsters, that would be effective. Getting the printed materials of years ago on-line is an excellent way to both preserve and make the history easily accessible. I was delighted to hear that you are in this process! It would be fun to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the DHAC! Keep me in the loop.

Thanks so much, Priscilla

Meeting Dates were established for 2015; the November meeting will be on the 3rd Monday due to Thanksgiving. Tiffany suggested our December meeting be a reception unless there is pressing business. Perhaps Laraine would host it at the seasonally decorated Molly Stark House? It was also suggested we might have some type of history 'contest' at the DES and invite the winner(s) and their parents to the reception. Donna will contact Laraine.

Web site: Committee decided to update roster, add mission statement, promote both books, and include minutes for 3 years. Rebecca's procedure was to email minutes from home or work. All available minutes for gaps have been located and submitted. Line is extremely busy before Town Meeting. Not sure who else can access website. In future the DHAC would like to add downloads and/or links; we'll ask the Selectmen about our options.

Archives: As Ken previously recommended, Rebecca & Bill are collecting DHAC materials for us to archive.

Where Settler's Feet Have Trod: Committee approved approaching NHHS Museum Shop to sell Bud's book.

Member Terms: Tiffany Dodd, Alison Vallieres and Ken Swayze's terms expire in March. The current focus of the committee along with the skills, abilities, commitment and time required for the next two-year term were discussed. Tiffany admits she has a full plate with her other responsibilities but is fully committed to the DHAC and its mission and would like to serve another term. Donna will contact both Ken & Alison.

Research: A volunteer outside the committee is willing to try on-line research for us based on a topic we provide. As an example of a 'topic' Donna presented her research on "Borax Bill." William Parkinson, born in Dunbarton supposedly went forth to be the first muleskinner to drive a 20-Mule team out of Death Valley (source: WTWBF, Alice Hadley). Newer research shows he was actually a company night watchman and learned how to drive for promotional purposes. Nonetheless, this is a *sample* of a topic that has multiple components for potential curriculum: borax is used in science experiments with children and the resulting product can be used to make artwork or simple toys (i.e. marbles – this could showcase the DHS's vintage marbles and other toys), 20-Mule team assembly kits are available, a volunteer (Leo - Gail said to fatten up!) dressed as a 'muleskinner' could compare/contrast their job to a modern trucker, the possibilities go on. This is only a sample.

DHAC General Funds: Bank Statement presented. Initially set up by Bud Noyes decades ago to handle donations and make payments for sign materials, postage, supplies. Still accepts donations. Minimal income now derived from sales of previously published books. Future history books will be considered. Funds are used for mission statement.

DHAC Archives Project aka Noyes Funds: Bank Statement presented. Creation is referenced in DHAC's 2008 Town Report. Add'l recollections of former Chair Rebecca Rolke, and former Treasurer Bill Rolke via email are:

"Sometime after Bud Noyes' death (9/2/08), his wife, Betty Ann Noyes, presented the committee with a check for \$5,000 payable to the Town of Dunbarton. The memo line said "Historical Committee" or similar verbiage. Bill deposited this check into a new account along with donations from various individuals made in his honor. These monies are held separately from the general DHAC funds.

Bud wanted to provide funds to preserve the "The Noyes Collection" and make it available to the public. This Collection consisted of, but was not limited to, items he had typed on a three-page list he previously provided to: Bill Rolke, Donna Dunn, Nancy Frost, Linda (Peters) Landry, Marion Crosby, Rebecca Rolke and Les Hammond, along with an accompanying letter dated May 16, 2007."

May 16, 2007

To: Bill, Donna, Nancy, Linda, Marion and Rebecca
.....also to Les who couldn't make Saturday's meeting.....

I thank you all for coming last Saturday, to review the so-called NOYES COLLECTION of historical material. After your visit I realized that I should have forewarned you about the makeup of the collection. I feel that many of you were expecting to see a vast number of old, historical documents, of which, sadly, I have none. Most ORIGINALS can only be found in museums and/or historical society vaults and are no longer available for purchase by the general public.

At our founding, the Dunbarton Historical Awareness Committee was charged with teaching our elementary school students (and others) about their historical heritage. I have always felt that is more important to have a thorough knowledge about the contents of these documents than to own them outright. The Noyes Collection is Bud's REFERENCE LIBRARY. It has taken well over fifty years to assemble all of this knowledge which I am willing to share with any of you, who would like it. I have diligently searched for every scrap of information relating to our town's historic past and have made copies of the same. I have reviewed Town Records, Provincial and Masonian Papers, property deeds from Rockingham, Hillsborough and Merrimack Counties, as well as those from the Province of Massachusetts Bay (of which we were once a part). This "locating process" has entailed countless hours of research, of driving time, of gasoline, tolls, parking fees, lunches as well as unexpected overtime parking fines incurred while obtaining necessary copies of historical documents. All of this historical data has been extrapolated into a form available for anyone searching for the information.

It was my initial intent to give all of this material to the Town of Dunbarton as a REFERENCE LIBRARY and to have it available, to anyone, for research purposes. It is also my hope that those of you who have indicated an interest in becoming the material's "caretakers" would consider taking on the responsibility of cataloging this important historical material for the use of all interested parties.

Sincerely yours,


Harlan A. Noyes

K-6 DES History Curriculum: General: Members received a printed copy of the **K-6** (a follow up to the email version sent last year) Kindergarten: Gail & Donna will spend an hour at a class and then discuss potential topics & projects with teacher Kim Belanger. All Classes: The Fire Chief is agreeable to our providing vintage fire-fighting items or displays to incorporate into their annual visit to the DES. Think sand buckets and more....

Rebecca & Bill were again recognized for their many years of committed service; we miss them.

Lynn brought in a very interesting period catalog full of vintage clothes and period items from Jas. Townsend & Co. It's pertinent to the town's 250th anniversary and the catalog can be obtained at: www.jas-townsend.com

Bill Zeller said he enjoyed the new meeting format with a quick pace and round table format; Les felt the first meeting with new members went well.

Donna thanked all members in advance for accommodating her learning curve as Chair as we launch into an important year.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm. Next meeting March 23, 2015

Respectfully submitted, Donna Dunn, Chair/Secretary