

MINUTES OF CDPA MEMBERS' MEETING

JULY 28, 2007

Houston Putnam Lowry called the meeting to order at 1:15 pm on July 28, 2007.

Present were Emily Gibbs, Scott Gibbs, Eric Gibbs, Elizabeth Gibbs West, Charlie West, Connor West, Georgia West, Margaret Gibbs Morgan, Deborah Gibbs Drewry, Alicen Drewry, Sarah Drewry, Rob Forrester, Elizabeth Beach, Houston Putnam Lowry, Myrtle Morse, Bill MacLaren, Martie MacLaren, Ian MacLaren, Morgan MacLaren, Ann Putnam, Doug Putnam, Jennifer Putnam, Chris Mathany, Kyle Mathany, Sveta Mathany, and Alyosha Mathany.

A motion to approve the minutes from the Secretary's report of the membership meeting held November 4, 2006 without modification was seconded and unanimously approved.

Financial Report

The President reported that the CDPA's 2006 IRS return is available online at Putnamelms.org and that copies of the accountant's second quarterly report for 2007 had been mailed to all members. Copies were also available at the meeting.

From an investment standpoint, the endowment is in good shape. After discussion, members moved to gift \$1,000.00 for 2007 to Old Trinity Church. A motion to approve the donation and report was seconded and approved unanimously.

Tyrone Farm Management, Inc. (TFMI) Report

The house, two outbuildings, the well house, and the garage have new paint. The process, conducted by Northeast Painters, took a month to complete beginning June 27th. TFMI has a contractor to re-roof two outbuildings beginning the second week of August. The garage roof was completed in November 2006 after the last membership meeting.

TFMI would like to explore the possibility of upgrading the house to accommodate permanent residents who could provide supervision for the property. Additionally, the house and its contents would suffer less wear and mildew since heat would be maintained throughout the winter. Rent charged would also reduce expenses. Discussion on this issue ranged from defining a suitable area for residency to providing additional accommodations for CDPA members visiting the area.

A motion to have TFMI investigate the costs of bringing part of the house up to residential building code specifications was seconded and unanimously approved by the members.

Mowing and PE grounds maintenance continue every two weeks; a gardener tends PE gardens once a week.

Despite ongoing improvements to PE's buildings, TMFI recommends the "potting shed" not be renovated since a large tree has compromised its interior. Discussion on this issue focused on the marginal utility of this building, its safety for those inclined to explore the contents and roof, and the possibility of salvaging windows and bricks for other projects.

A motion to raze the building and save useful debris was seconded and approved unanimously.

The New England Mountain Bike Association (NEMBA) has requested access to the property for recreational rides. Members questioned whether allowing access would compromise PE's security and if NEMBA was fully up to the task of responsible trail building and maintenance. Bill MacLaren said evidence concerning trail use in the state tends to confirm that consistent use by clubs discourages the presence of vandals, but there is no perfect solution. Both Ian MacLaren and Elizabeth Beach vouched for the good character of the local NEMBA chapter. A motion to allow NEMBA access, with appropriate insurance assurances, was seconded and approved unanimously.

PE activities, under the auspices of Elizabeth Beach, included a Paper Appraisal Afternoon on May 20 as part of the Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor's (QSHC) Local History Month program. On June 17th, PE's opening day for general visitors coincided with Bunker Hill Day and QSHC's Go Fourth! series of patriotic events.

PE will host the Brooklyn Historical Society's Harvest Homecoming Dinner on September 13. Bill Hosley, Executive Director of the New Haven Colony Historical Society, will address the subject of "Three Hundred Years of CT Architecture."

PE will also participate in QSHC's Walking Weekends on Oct 7 and 14 featuring "Stonewalls to Gravestones."

Nominating Committee Appointment

Eric Gibbs eric.gibbs@nreca.coop and Scott Gibbs spgindc@gmail.com volunteered to head up this year's search for worthy candidates to be presented at the November membership meeting. All officers are automatically members of the Board of Directors. Any member interested in serving in any capacity (or in creating a new capacity to serve in) should contact the committee.

New Members

Jennifer Putnam's husband Chris Mathany and their children Kyle, Sveta, and Alyosha were nominated for membership. Rob Forrester was also proposed for membership as Scott Gibbs' life partner. All proposed members were admitted by acclimation.

Other Business

Members congratulated Emily Gibbs, a welcome presence at CDPA meetings for many years, on her 90th birthday.

The date for the next membership meeting was set for Saturday November 3, 2007 and RSVP's will be solicited to coordinate food and attendance at Old Trinity's service. Myrtle Morse volunteered to cook and transport the turkey.

A copy of the CDPA membership mailing list is attached for your personal use.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35pm.

William F. MacLaren
Secretary pro tem