

COLONEL DANIEL PUTNAM ASSOCIATION, INC.
Minutes from November 1, 2008 Membership Meeting

Houston Putnam Lowry called the meeting to order at 1:25 pm.

Present were Hope Allen, Elizabeth Beach, Nancy Bell, Dick Booth, Emily Gibbs, Scott Gibbs, Sue Jayes, Wedge Jayes, Houston Putnam Lowry, Bill MacLaren, Katie MacLaren, Martie MacLaren, Morgan MacLaren, Myrtle Morse, and Doug Putnam

Nominating Committee Report: The nominating committee recommended the following slate of officers:

Houston Putnam Lowry – President
Liz West – Vice President
Doug Putnam – Vice President
Katie MacLaren – Secretary
Scott Gibbs – Assistant Secretary
Houston Putnam Lowry – Treasurer
Hope Allen – Honorary Board Member

Houston Putnam Lowry asked the members present if there were any additional nominations. Morgan MacLaren nominated himself for a new officer's position of "Groundskeeper" and therefore to be part of the Board.

Vote on acceptance of nominations: Scott Gibbs moved and Doug Putnam seconded – unanimous approval.

Pursuant to the by-laws, the following are automatically elected to the Board of Directors:

Houston Putnam Lowry
Liz West
Doug Putnam
Katie MacLaren
Scott Gibbs
Morgan MacLaren
Hope Allen – Honorary Board Member (non-voting)

Finance Committee

A statement was sent out to the membership in September. Due to the current economic climate Houston Putnam Lowry reports they haven't been looking very closely at the financials recently. If you did not receive the September statement and would like one please contact Houston at:

Brown & Welsh, P.C.
P.O. Box 183
Meriden, CT 06450-0183

House Committee

Tyrone Farm Management Inc. (TFMI) has been the de facto House Committee. Bill MacLaren reported that the repairs have been started upstairs to keep the weather out and the carpenter is coming back this month to continue the work upstairs. There will be a dumpster outside for debris and the plan is to complete repairs before it gets too cold/snowy. Water has been discovered in the fireplace in the dining room – TFMI will build a wooden insert for the interim between now and when the bluestone chimney caps are resealed. There is a dedicated crew of about four people who hunt on the property with permission who have offered to put up posted signs around the property. They report that they periodically encounter trespassers during hunting season who do not have permission to hunt on the property.

Vote on having approved hunters put up posted signs on the property: Houston Putnam Lowry moved and Myrtle Morse seconded – unanimous approval

Scott Gibbs asked for clarification about CDPA's liability if a hunter gets hurt on the property – Bill reports that since there is no cost to the hunters to hunt, there is no liability on the part of CDPA.

Myrtle Morse thanked everyone for helping out and bringing goodies today. She has appointed herself social chairperson because she enjoys putting parties together. Those present thanked Myrtle and Bill for putting the meal together today. It was delicious and plentiful.

Elizabeth Beach reported that it's been a quiet season at PE because of the renovation schedule. She has volunteered to be a non-voting member of the Brooklyn Historical Society's Board and suggests that we ask one of them to attend our meetings too.

Elizabeth also said we are becoming known to the Association for Living History Farms and Museums (ALHFM) and she will potentially write an article about Old Trinity and Putnam Elms for their publication. She took some items to their silent auction at the ALHFM conference on the topic of sustainability in museums that she attended in Portsmouth, NH and she made some good connections there.

Grounds Committee

Houston Putnam Lowry reminded the membership that we always accept volunteers to be on the Grounds Committee if anyone is interested.

Houston reported that Morgan MacLaren and Laura St. Jean are moving into Little Datchet next door (owned by Kay Jones) and they are in the midst of painting and making improvements before moving in – people are welcome to go by and take a look after the meeting.

Morgan MacLaren reported that the grounds are looking good. We need to continue to maintain and the stone walls need some work. The gardens behind the house could also use some work. Houston suggested that Morgan and Bill discuss a master plan and what could be done and look at budgeting. All of the disease resistant elms that were planted a number of years ago are doing well. Morgan reported that we don't need anything high maintenance. It was suggested that a membership work day/weekend could be proposed as well as partnering again with the CT Master Gardener program and possibly bringing in professional help if needed. Morgan and Bill will report back at the next meeting about a potential plan.

Emily Gibbs asked about the sleigh in the shed – Bill reported that there is a new roof on the shed which is keeping the sleigh from the weather at the moment.

Additional Items

Scott Gibbs brought a brochure on *A Chair for All Reasons* from the Museum of International Folk Art in New Mexico which included a picture of a bench created by Douglas Jones that was included in the show.

Dick Booth reported that Old Trinity was painted this past summer due to a \$4,000 grant from the CDPA and that it looks very nice. He expressed thanks on behalf of the parish.

Those who attended the All Saints Day service at Old Trinity this morning agreed that Father Kelloway did a terrific job of leading the service and adding valuable historic information along the way. Myrtle Morse made a motion that CDPA give him an honorarium of \$100.

Vote to give Father Kelloway a \$100 honorarium for leading the service at Old Trinity: Myrtle Morse moved and Bill McLaren seconded – unanimous approval

Scott Gibbs brought an article from the July 2008 *New York Times* Escape section highlighting northeastern CT and detailing a travel route in the area that might be of interest to members considering attending the meeting this summer.

It was reported that Ralph Brennan who used to mow the lawns at Putnam Elms died recently.

The next meeting will probably be the third weekend in July (Saturday, July 18th) but Houston Putnam Lowry will confirm closer to the date.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 pm.

Katie MacLaren
Secretary