

DUNBARTON HISTORICAL AWARENESS COMMITTEE

October 23, 2023, 6:04 pm

Members Present: Donna Dunn, Paula Mangini, Fred Mullen, Lee Mullen, Bill Nichols,
Members out of town/absent: Gail Martel, Dave Nault (BOS Liaison), Linda Nickerson (not required), Bill Zeller

Minutes: Bill N. motioned to approve the minutes of the 9/25/23 meeting. Fred seconded, unanimous.

DHAC Financials: Deferred until next month.

Alan Ilsley: Died at 93. He was the husband of Winnie Isley who grew up here. We interviewed them a few years back. Donna will send a card from the DHAC to their daughter, Robin, who lives on the Weare homestead (whose barn includes a section from the Straw barn in Dunbarton).

North Dunbarton Post Office: Paula tracked down paperwork for revision, including costs. Info has been shared with Laraine and family. The cost is over \$2K unless we're willing to wait 'as their budget allows.' No action for now.

Scipio Page Black Heritage Trail Marker: Scipio had no will. The marker site does not appear to need grass seed. Since a relative of Samson Battis showed up on a pauper record Bud Noyes had, Donna checked at the NHHS for more with no success. Next stop will be the State Archives. No record of a Page family has showed up on Dr. Isaac Stearns records so far. The records show a number of other blacks who resided here in the early 1800s. Records are incomplete.

DHS Archives: The DHS lent us 3 Burnham Center Store ledgers from the early 1800s. No reference to black people so far. All ledgers are being scanned and the DHS will receive a thumb drive.

CZUR Scanner: Donna purchased a specialized scanner for "books" that makes high resolution copies, removes the curve from pages and is OCR (Optical Character Recognition) capable. It's being used on the DHS ledgers with the help of volunteer Jae Larsen who set it up and connected it to a laptop Donna already had. The setup is portable.

Elijah L. Harris' Journal: Leland Mills has been emailing scans of the years 1847-1854 in batches. Still more to come.

Assist Cemetery Trustees: The Trustees delayed placing Gustave Gruhn's ashes at Page's Cemetery. More info needed.

Assist Former Resident: A former resident inquired about a hermit living at Gorham Pond Road in the mid 1900s. Conversations with old timers indicates there were actually two; one was a Mr. Wood and the other was a Native American whose cabin was abandoned and eventually taken down by a later resident. The cabin was where Indians would have fished with rock formations and baskets. Only a grainy photo identified by Gerry Gelinas exists.

Metal Detecting: Paula was approached by a couple who metal detect as a hobby. LIDAR shows an anomaly behind her house they'd like to investigate. Paula has an appointment with them, after checking some references. A discussion about items lost to history by enthusiasts during the years followed with examples given. Our own committee members have detectors but discoveries made are given to the owners of the property or to the DHS. Sensitive issue.

Watch Towers: The photo Les Hammond placed on the cover of the 2013 town report turned out to be a Goffstown tower. Wayne Mills had been doing research on this subject and has been made aware. The Committee agreed it was time to place a small retraction in this year's town report. Paula will research who paid for these towers and if they were similar in nature. Unfortunately, the photo (originally Bill Marshall's) can't be located to see if there is information on the back.

Lead on School history: Fred connected with a Bow Volunteer on Hazardous Waste Day who has old scrapbooks that might have information. Donna has contacted Woody for a name and will contact her.

Adjourn/Next Meeting: Bill N. made a motion to adjourn at 7:20, Paula seconded. Next meeting will be Monday, November 27, 2023, 6 pm, Town Offices.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Dunn, Chair & Secretary