

Historic Hallowell Committee
Meeting February 27, 2016
Draft Notes

Attending:

Mark Blythe – Hubbard Free Library

Chris Cart – Hallowell Area Board of Trade and Historic Hallowell Project

Gerry Mahoney – Row House, Historic Hallowell Project, and Vaughan Homestead Foundation

Bob McIntire – Row House, Historic Hallowell Project, Hallowell Cultural Committee, and Hallowell Area Board of Trade

Jane Radcliffe – Historic Hallowell Project and Vaughan Homestead Foundation

Richard Seymour – Hallowell Fire Department

Sandra Stubbs – Hallowell Citizens Initiative

Kate Tremblay – Vaughan Homestead Foundation

Other members: Sam is boiling down sap. Lisa wants to be involved and will help, but weekends are taken with family activities. Cary attended the meeting last week.

Our mission is to guide the creation of policy and practices regarding the collection, preservation and display of the City's historic artifacts and related properties, to prioritize and coordinate the many historical projects and to promote historic preservation efforts. The role is not to supplant the efforts of existing organizations, but to aid in the work of those organizations in any way possible.

1. Introductions and Activities

Mark – Bob Briggs will be presenting information on his new book *Hallowell 1899* this afternoon. Of historical note Sam will be doing a tour of the cemetery on May 21, 2016. Susan Pollard, author of *Find Your Inner Moose* will be presenting June 2nd. Mark says she is very entertaining! Old Hallowell Day (OHD) book sales, potter Malley Webber, Literacy Maine and other activities. More events available on the Hubbard Web Site www.hubbardfree.org

Richard – Hallowell Fire Department – OHD activities in planning

Chris – The Rail Trail is going to be installing markers identifying spots along the rail trail of historical interest. Suggestions are welcome. The Board of Trade is working on its website www.hallowell.org People can provide information for presentation on a revolving slide presentation to promote activities.

Gerry – Row House is presenting a reading presentation *Excerpts for the Journals of John Drew* March 12 at 2pm in the City Hallowell Auditorium in benefit of the Hubbard Library Capital Campaign. Drew, a sea captain, was born in East Hallowell (Chelsea). He contributed a series of 36 letters entitled "*From Pine to Palm – or the Cruise of the "Reward"*" that were published in the Boston Journal. Drew donated publication royalties to the Hubbard Library. These "Library Letters" provide a vivid insight into the so-called Golden Years of Maine Ship Building. Friday evening of the OHD weekend Row House will be presenting a benefit concert of the nationally known Pine City Sound barbershop quartet. In the fall Earle Shettleworth will be presenting a program on Hallowell Photographers. More information at www.rowhouseinc.org/

Kate – Vaughan Woods and Homestead will present a “Backdoor Tour” of the homestead for young people on April 20. The Homestead will be open for tours Tuesdays in July and August by reservation only. A major project is the publication of William Warner Vaughan’s History of the homestead that has only been available to family members. The publication will be released at a Garden Party and Grounds Tour June 24th. More information at <http://vaughanhomestead.org/>

Sandy – Core test drilling has been done behind the Fire Station to determine the suitability of soils for possible restoration of the First Station Hose Tower. The Citizens Initiative Committee will be sponsoring a reading of the Declaration of Independence at City Hall on July 4th and is planning a walking tour of the Fire Station in September.

Jane – She has been working at the Homestead and with the Citizens Initiative Committee.

2. Acquisition of Hallowell related artifacts

Gerry described the recent acquisition of the papers of George Standwood Fuller, former mayor of Hallowell and proprietor of a foundry in Hallowell. Irv Paradis sent a note about the Fuller papers being auctioned off. Row House acquired the papers and they are being stored in the Hubbard Library Collection.

Description: PAPERS OF THE FULLER FAMILY OF HALLOWELL, MAINE - Papers belonging to George Stanwood Fuller, (1835-1913), Hallowell, Maine, who served as 1st Lt. of the 3rd Regt Maine Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War, was captured at Chancellorsville and exchanged, fought in over 20 battles, including Gettysburg. He was twice Mayor of Hallowell after the war, served as a State Representative, ran a successful foundry at the site now occupied by City Hall. Includes: (8) childhood Rewards of Merit; Journal of trip to Boston with some sort of inventory; April 28, 1861 rousing patriotic letter from friend in Oquawka, IL; July 11, 1862 letter from Lizzie S. Sanborn about the death of her soldier brother under his command; pre-war photos of father and all five brothers; Family Record, Deed and other papers. Estimated Price: \$250 - \$350.

Sam felt the papers were significant. The Row House board authorized Irv to bid on them. Gerry feels this underscores the need to have strategies in place to acquire items like these.

3. Sylvia Hudson Paintings

Gerry also noted that paintings by Sylvia Hudson once in the possession of the City are missing. These depicted store fronts along Water Street. They were thought to be out for cleaning.

4. Need for a historical society

Jane thought that this points out the need for a historical society in Hallowell. Much discussion, but no resolution.

5. Access to resources

Kate said she is interested and concerned that people have access to historical resources. Discussion ensued about a listing of organizations and resources. Kate will begin the list with contact information and will share with committee members. There was discussion about where historical documents and artifacts are presently stored and what some other options are for safe storage. The Hubbard has a small room in the basement where some documents and artifacts are stored in addition to all the items presently on public display in the building proper. The Fire Department Collection is in the Fire Station/Town House. There may be some space there. While security is less an issue presently there are no fire suppression or fire alarm systems. Kate said the collection at the Homestead is catalogued. Documents are stored in acid-free file folders in acid-free boxes.

6. Fire Station

Sandy provided an update of the Citizens Initiative Committee's efforts to ensure the future of the Hallowell Fire Station/Town House. Committee members are invited to join a tour of the station house Thursday, March 3rd at 10 AM. Also the next committee meeting will be 10:00AM Saturday April 2, 2016 upstairs in the Fire Station/Town House. Sandy described some of the articles in the collection. Jane noted that Sam Webber had scanned the photographs in the Fire Station collection. If so perhaps we could have some older folks look at them and identify firemen and others appearing in the pictures.

7. HistoricHallowell.org

Committee members discussed the www.historichallowell.org web site and how it could be updated and better used. Chris and Bob will meet Thursday, March 3rd at 9:00AM at Slates Bakery to review the web and discuss how best to link and cross reference resources. Anyone else who would like can join in.

8. Shared Calendar

Kate asked about the availability of a shared calendar. She said that there was a shared Google calendar, but she went to use it and it was no longer available. Chris said that he would check with Deb Fahy to see if the calendar was still active.

9. Water Street Construction

Richard wondered if there were any plans or a strategy or plan for salvaging the construction debris and materials from the Water Street rebuild project. Jane said that is probably regulated by the state. Gerry said the Ernie Miller from DOT would be the person to contact regarding the construction plans. Richard will follow-up with Ernie and City Manager Stefan Pakulski.

10. Gibson Painting

Chris mentioned that a gentleman had approached him after a Gaslight performance about a Gibson painting that had been left to the gentleman and his siblings when his mother died. Chris directed him to the City Manager. Chris will try and locate the person's name and follow-up to see if there is interest in the painting being donated to the Hubbard Library. More discussion about how to respond to opportunities such as this to obtain Hallowell-related artifacts.

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