

Historic Hallowell Committee
Meeting Minutes April 2, 2016 – Hallowell Fire Department apartment
Draft

Attending:

Jane Radcliffe –Citizens Initiative Committee and Vaughan Homestead Foundation
Richard Seymour – Hallowell Fire Department
Sandra Stubbs – Hallowell Citizens Initiative
Kate Tremblay – Vaughan Homestead Foundation
Bob McIntire –Hallowell Arts and Cultural Committee, Hallowell Charter Commission, Hallowell Area
Board of Trade

Note – The next Committee meeting will be May 14, 2016 at the Vaughan Homestead beginning at
10AM. Kate promised heat.

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. Minutes from last meeting – Jane provided corrections. Revised minutes will be sent to the Mayor for the record.
2. Intros and Updates – Richard reported the Department meets on Tuesday to discuss plans for Old Hallowell Day. Sandy reported that the Citizens Initiative Committee is considering an open house after the Old Hallowell Day parade, but needs to know the Department's plans. Jan has nothing right now. Kate distributed the new Homestead schedule for the year. She noted that the Homestead will be open for tours by reservation Tuesdays in July and August. William Vaughan's book "Hallowell Memories" is being reprinted for sale and distribution.
3. John Drew Reading – Bob reported that the John Drew reading sponsored by Row House in support of the Hubbard Library was well attended. An edited recording of the event is being reviewed by Gerry Mahoney. A shorter version maybe produced for greater distribution and sale.
4. Acquisition of Hallowell related artifacts – A majority of committee members voted to have picture #4 from the Eastern Publication Collection enlarged. It is the view of the east side of Water Street looking south from Tucks Corners. Bob will follow up with Kevin Johnson at the Penobscot Marine Museum.
5. Sylvia Hudson Paintings – No news. Richard wondered if all the storage areas at City Hall had been checked. Sandy is going to check again.
6. Access to Resources - Kate Tremblay presented her work identifying and recording the location of Hallowell historical resources. She has entered data on an Excel spread sheet to at least begin the process. She has created Excel worksheets for the Hubbard Library, the Fire Station, City Hall and the Vaughan Homestead to begin. The listings identify the collection, location, basic description, earliest record of acquisition, catalogue, number of items, physical size, exhibitable

artifacts, notes, story/donation, risk/issues, and when the information was collected from who and by whom.

The Hubbard collection information has come from Sam Webber so far. Next Kate would like to review the information with Gerry and Mark. The Library listing to date identifies the Permanent Exhibit Collection, Newspaper Collection, Photograph Collection, Postcard Collection, Historic Books, Local Reference Collection, Trask Collection, Tebbets Collection Maine Register, Original Paper Collection, and the Current Events Collection.

The Firemen's Association Collection was catalogued by Jane Radcliffe and Ron Kley.

The Vaughan Homestead Collection at present identifies The Diana Gibson WWII Clubmobile Collection, The James Leary Civil War Letters, and the Ellen Twisleton Vaughan Northwoods Watercolor Paintings Collection.

Next steps are to expand the listings as time permits.

Bob will contact Deanna Hallett to make an appointment to review the maintenance of the City's historical records and properties. Kate will attend to begin to fill in more banks in the listing.

7. Fire Station – Awaiting plans from Coffin Engineering.
8. HistoricHallowell.org – “About” copy provided by Gerry Mahoney. It was loaded on the site under the title “The Team.” This information will also be forwarded to the City Manager to add to the City website under “City Boards & Committees.” Revised minutes from the February, 2016 meeting will also be submitted.

The Committee reviewed the site and discussed the contents. Chris populated the site with available information. Some suggestions: The slide presentation on the Home Page could be comprised of information about key Committee projects. Historic Hallowell could be deleted as it is a repeat of the sidebar.

Museum in The Streets could begin with a “splash” page about the project.

Maybe a listing called “Collections” could provide an overview the collections of historical artifacts with spotlights on particular items. This would provide an opportunity to begin to display items in the Fire Department Collection.

“Link” might become a static page like the Board of Trade “All” listing in the Members Section with logos and links for Row House, Hubbard Free Library, the Board of Trade, Vaughan Woods and Historic Homestead, City of Hallowell, the Citizens' Initiative Committee and Maine Memory Net.

There will be a web meeting Thursday at 10AM at the Vaughan Homestead. Anyone interested in welcome to attend. Committee members are encouraged to review the website and offer suggestions.

9. Water Street Construction – Richard had a meeting with the former City Manager the day before his untimely passing. Richard will email the Acting City Manager sharing the Committee’s interest and concerns and asking that members be notified of opportunities to participate in planning discussions.

Note: Brian Kent, a noted city planner, will be presenting on visions for Water Street Wednesday evening at 6:30PM at the Hubbard Library.

10. Gibson Paintings – Chris will follow-up.

11. New Business – Old Hallowell Day historical presentation/display in presently vacant store front. The Committee discussed at length the possibility of developing a historical display for presentation during Old Hallowell Day. Several possibilities were considered like creating display panels on computer and having them enlarged at the Maine State Library’s Maker Space. Kate said that the Homestead has four cases that might be used to display artifacts. Richard suggested maybe using a video projector or large screen TV that would show a presentation that would replay. Members will look at available space and see if there is a landlord that might allow us to do a “pop-up museum.”