

THOMASTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

November 22, 2011

Members Present: Joe Wassong, Al Pfeafflin , John St. Denis , Lucille Killiany, Kristin Mossiman O'Sullivan and Val Polowy

Others Present: Tom Calvello and Scott Duff

Minutes were read with one correction by Joe concerning the Linton collection.

Joe discussed the inclusion of Tom Calvallo as a commission member. Joe asked Tom if he could go to Selectman Ed Mone to be installed as a new commission member. This could speed up the process needed to include him.

Concerning the bathroom restoration, Joe showed the letter which he wrote to Julia Carmelich Historian of the Connecticut State Preservation Office of the Department of Economic and Community Development explaining our proposed restoration concerning the bathroom project. He also read a letter from David Bahlman, State Pres. Officer granting our proposal. Joe requested a pre proposal meeting to talk about the bathroom project.

The Barrett wall clock has been hung in the upstairs hall of the Seth Thomas-Bradstreet House by John and Tom. All should take some time to see the clock.

Several Mary Ellen Kunz books at the house have been sold and monies were being accounted for the purchases to be paid to Mary Ellen. Joe will send a check for \$30.00 to Mary Ellen Kunz.

The two dress forms donated by the Thomaston Women's Club have been put on display with two of the wedding gowns which were in storage. This was done Saturday, November 19th by Becky, Joe and Val. The second Graders who were given a tour on November 22nd were the first ones to see the displays and they were very pleased to see the gowns.

Elaine Dixon sent out solicitation letters. Joe will ask her also to have more brochures made up for hand outs during tour days. These will be printed after information changes are made to the brochures.

There is no new information on the Knox Lock Box.

John has gone to Wal-Mart to see outside benches and was told to look again in the spring. The brownstones for the back yard were delivered to the Seth Thomas-Bradstreet House and are set up near the large Yew tree. John suggested we put up an informational plaque on the stones. The stones are 26 inches above the ground and can be used as sitting surfaces.

Joe told the group that so far 400 Linton items have been catalogued. This is done all in preparation for the Linton birthday celebration.

A Seth Thomas Clock bicentennial is coming in 2013. A special power point presentation will be made by Ian Roome in Ohio that year. The Seth Thomas Clock Company was founded in 1813.

Sixty four Second Graders from Black Rock School went through the house on the morning of November 22nd. There were four tours given by Val Polowy of 30 to 20 minutes with the help of Joe Wassong and Scott Duff. Donations were given by teacher Linda White and the P.T.O. in the total of \$86.00.

The workshop mentioned in last month's meeting was changed to November 8th and was to be attended by Shirley Giroux but the date was missed. This was the workshop on photos and tools.

The new meeting schedule for 2012 was given to all members and Kristin made a motion to approve the new schedule and seconded by John. It was accepted 6-0

Modifications for the house tours were discussed. Elaine had told Kristin that she would do tours but could not do the entire day. Two hundred forty seven tourists toured the house this season and although that is good, much time is spent with no tours. Other possibilities were given. There is the possibility of cutting the hours. Also we could cut the number of docents from three to two. Lucille asked if groups in town could be approached to take them through the house. Elaine and Margaret Berg had made presentations to several groups in town. Joe said private tours for less than four were not worth considering. John suggested hanging balloons to attract more attention. Kristin suggested the tours be changed to 11 to 3 instead of 10 to 3 and made a motion for that change in 2012. It was seconded by Val and carried by the entire group. The tours could be considered for the months June through October. Private tours could include May and November. Kristin made a motion to change the openings to June through October and it was seconded by John and also carried 6-0. Kristin also made a motion to have two docents for each tour. Al seconded the motion and it was carried 6-0.

Candles were put in the windows at the house November 19th the day when Becky, Joe and Val were scheduled to do the tours. Joe requested that six more candles be purchased for all the windows and Kristin would look in the Plow and Hearth site to order them on line again.

Other business related to the web site for information on the Seth Thomas-Bradstreet House. Joe said it was very easy to access it, simply type in The Seth Thomas-Bradstreet House and the information is all there.

John asked about the sign for the sharpening tool on the back porch of the house. Joe said he did make a sign since the last meeting.

Lucille made a motion to adjourn, seconded by John. The meeting was adjourned at 8:54. The next meeting will be January 24, 2012 at 7 P.M.