

Smith-Harris House Commission  
Informal Discussion  
March 25, 2015

Present: Gary Lakowsky  
Kathleen Sasso  
Richard MacDonald

FILED IN EAST LYME  
CONNECTICUT  
Mar 30 2015 AT 2:35 AM PM  
Kathleen Sasso  
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Also Present: Joanie DiMartino, Smith-Harris Curator  
Donna Massung, Friends of Smith-Harris President

I. CALL TO ORDER. Chairman Lakowsky called the Smith-Harris House Commission Informal Discussion of March 25, 2015 to order at 7:04 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES. The approval of minutes was tabled until a quorum is established.

III. REPORTS

A. Public Delegations. Ms. Massung reported the Friends will have their Plant Sale in the barn on May 9, 2015 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Honey Tea will be held on June 28, 2015 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The Motorcycle Show will be held on August 9, 2015.

The Annual Meeting of the Friends will be held on June 6 at 10 a.m.

June 13 is free Museum Day and will be held at the house from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

B. Ex-officio Report. There was no report.

C. Curator's Report. (See attached)

D. Agenda Additions. There were no additions to the Agenda.

E. Chairman's Report.

Mr. Lakowsky will bring a sign-up sheet for summer tours to the next meeting of this Commission.

Mr. Lakowsky reported he received a letter of thanks dated March 20, 2015, for this Commission's advertising and willingness to participate in the Trees for Tomorrow Program, from June Hoyer, Chairperson of the Trees for Tomorrow.

F. Financial Report.

1. Status Update. There was no report.
2. Presentation of Bills. This matter was tabled.
3. Barn Rental. This matter was tabled.

G. Collections Committee. There was no report.

H. Correspondence. There was no new correspondence.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Property Maintenance.

1. Garden Fence and Maintenance. A volunteer is being sought for the Heritage Garden.
2. Front Walkway. Mr. Lakowsky reported we have supplies for the front walkway.
3. Lighting. The lighting will be delayed until the next fiscal year.

B. Museum Development.

1. Educational Programs. (See attached).

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Property Maintenance. Ms. Sasso showed photos of an outdoor classroom area.

1. Barn Roof. The barn roof has been postponed to 2016.

B. Museum Development.

1. Educational Program. Ms. DiMartino reported we met and discussed our goals and everyone agreed that working with the other historical homes in Town is our goal. We plan to meet every other week. Everyone was asked to read the STEPS-CT Report.

2. STEP-CT Report. See the attached Curator's Report.

C. Upcoming Events. Mr. Lakowsky reported he has a commitment from six motorcycle groups for the Antique Motorcycle Show to be held on August 9. Flyers and postcards will be needed. Ms. Sasso agreed to prepare a flyer for distribution as well as postcards. It could be advertised on the web. Mr. Lakowsky will contact three motorcycle vendors. Ms. DiMartino agreed to be contact person for vendors. Music will be played in the barn. The donation is \$10 for everyone.

Ms. Massung suggested having a vendor area sign, three event parking signs, two entrance signs, and a show bike sign. It was felt signs will be needed for each of the following bike years: 1900, 1920 and 1940. Ms. Massung agreed to take care of the signs. Three portapotties will also be needed. Parks and Recreation are willing to prepare parking lines for each bike period. Mr. Lakowsky will determine whether snow fences are available through the Town. Each motorcycle will have a tag with its owner's name on it. People's choice will have a tag number on it. Mr. Harris informed Mr. Lakowsky that the Leos are willing to help. They will need a list of needed chores. Boy Scouts and Explorers may also be able to help. The house will be open for tours. We will need to have individuals stationed in each room. Each gate will need three people. Visitors will be stamped in. Trophies for each ten-year period and a People's Choice trophy will be needed. Mr. Lakowsky will prepare an evaluation form and People's Choice form. He will also notify the Police Department of this event. It was felt there can be a maximum of 30 vendors. Ms. DiMartino suggested a kiddy station.

Ms. DiMartino felt it would be nice to show motorcycle movies.

## VI. ADJOURNMENT

The Informal Discussion adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary

## March Curator's Report; Smith-Harris House

Joanie DiMartino [joanie.dimartino@att.net]

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 25, 2015 6:04 PM

**To:** Darlene [darlenedelaura@gmail.com]; Donna Massung [dmmsew@sbcglobal.net]; Gary Lakowsky [lakowsky@sbcglobal.net]; Gene Medley [gdmedley@msn.com]; judith macdonald [felcan@hotmail.com]; Sasso, Kathleen; Kathleen Patterson [kpatt@ct.metrocast.net]; Lorraine Blinn [rblinn@snet.net]; Renata Longa [renatalonga@gmail.com]; Suzanne Badagliacco [jbadagliacco@snet.net]

**Cc:** mmickerson@eltownhall.com

**Attachments:** 2015 Middle School draft doc.doc (20 KB); March 2015 DOC.pages (174 KB)

Hi, Everyone,

Here is this month's Curator's Report. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Curator's Report--March, 2015

Submitted to the Smith-Harris House Commission

STEPS-CT

The current STEPS-CT Committee: Donna Massung, Kathleen Patterson, Kathleen Sasso, Maggi Prokop and curator Joanie DiMartino have been meeting to continue with STEPS-CT work.

A very successful--despite the weather!--meeting with our Peer Advisor, Sarah Griswold, was held at the House on Sunday, March 1st.

Special THANK YOU to Maggi Prokop for assisting me with last minute touches on the house and overseeing the dusting!

A second special THANK YOU to Judy McDonald for assisting with clean-up after the brunch!

The Committee has agreed to meet on a bi-weekly basis to hammer out language and generate documents and policies as needed to reach at least Bronze Level for STEPS. Our upcoming meeting dates are (at the High School Library): April 7th & April 23rd, 3:30 pm. All are welcome to attend.

Our next meeting with our Peer Advisor will take place at the Deep River Historical Society, 245 Main Street. It looks like our slot with Sarah will be either 1-1:30 pm or 1:30-2 pm, with the group meeting at 2 until 3:15 pm. Commission members and Friends Board members are invited to attend; free!

Yesterday we met to generate text for the Vision Statement. The Vision Statement will serve as our goal for the House, while the Mission Statements serve as the road maps to get us there. I'll have the full text of the Vision Statement available for perusal at the next meeting.

Programs/Education

The next tour of the House with Wil Reed's students is scheduled for Friday, April 10th, at 7:30 am. Maggi Prokop & I will be giving tours that day.

The "Novel History" program is set to run; splitting the cost with the library comes to \$200 for one honorarium for the Smith-Harris House. Please let me know if you have any questions.

The Afternoon Honey Tea is scheduled for Sunday, June 28th. We just have a few details to work out before I create a text & budget.

We're starting to gear-up for Museum Open-House Day, Saturday, June 13th. We're publicizing with the two other Houses in East Lyme. Along with hosting the DAR, we'll be offering House tours, Games on the Lawn, and Refreshments provided by the Friends. New this year will be Maggi Prokop premiering her character, "Elizabeth Avery Henderson," Thomas's sister who owned a portion of, and lived in, the House. More details to come.

School Program: please see attached sheet. The Friends Board has offered to cover a portion of the cost of the program. Richelle is looking into accessing funds from the PTA. Currently rescheduling some portions of the day; dates are still June 1st & 3rd. More details to come.

I'm interested in contacting Mike McDowell over the next week or so about the possibility of a short film series on Friday evenings in July during the summer; history/agricultural-related movies.

Donna, Maggi, & I have been informally discussing autumn programs; the sooner we can nail down particulars the better.

#### Summer Tours

I've spoken with Cindy DeHaan; she is interested in returning on Saturdays at the House.

I will be covering Fridays; we'll need a Commission member for Sundays.

We may want another trained guide to be available on occasion to cover vacation days.

#### Publicity/Technology

As we are gearing up for spring and summer, I've spent more time this month than over the winter working on publicity.

I'm working with Stacey to develop a "Around Town" button for the website where we can publicize events for the other two Houses.

Also working with Stacey to create a "donate" button for easy membership and event sign-up.

#### Collections/Landscape

The spigot for the hose by the porch was leaking/dripping yesterday. May need someone to look at it. Donna & I checked the basement; no leaks were found there.

We received the donation of a wooden coffin for Special Use by Joanie DiMartino.

This will allow for us to interpret 19th-century funerary traditions. A Very Special THANKS to Maggi & John Prokop for being "Pall Bearers" in helping move two coffins to the Smith-Harris and Avery-Copp Houses, respectively.

We got a call from a man interested in donating a rocking chair. I will contact him tomorrow.

I plan to have the blinds sorted out tomorrow, as well.

#### Meetings Attended

3/1-STEPS-CT Peer Advisor meeting

3/10-Friends Board meeting

3/11-represented the Smith-Harris House at a NEMA professional gathering at the Engine Room restaurant in Mystic.

3/12-meeting with Mr. Avery and Maggi Prokop

3/24-STEPS Committee meeting for MVG.

3/25-Commission meeting

Submitted by:

Joanie DiMartino, curator

March 25, 2015

##END

Have a great evening, see many of you shortly!

Ciao!

Joanie

Joanie DiMartino  
joanie.dimartino@att.net

"In today already walks tomorrow." --Samuel Taylor Coleridge

"Well-behaved women seldom make history." --Laurel Thatcher Ulrich

## **2015 Middle School Field Trip Draft/Budget**

Monday, June 1 & Wednesday, June 3

90 Students + 45 each day totals: 135 students each day

\*Comes to 22 students per group.

### Speakers:

- Leslie Evans, "Home & Front: Civil War Medicine" @ \$125 per day for two days = \$250
- Hank Savin "Abolitionist Struggles in Connecticut" @ \$125 per day for two days = \$250
- Gary Lakowsky "Still Around: Invented Then, Used Now" @ \$0 per day for two days = \$0
- Jennifer Emerson "Open-Fire Camp Cooking Demo" @ \$125 per day for two days = \$250
- Joanie DiMartino "Tour" @ / per day for two days = curator cost
- LUNCH segment= free; we provide lunch for speakers

Cost for current speaker total: \$750.

With additional speaker in round-robin @ \$125 per day for two days = \$250

Total: \$1000

With 7 round-robin speakers, student group size drops to 19.

We're saving \$200 over two days by not having a musician or other large-group performer.

Looking last year's schedule over, the musician had the students as a whole in the barn for 45 minutes as an opener.

- If we added another "round-robin" speaker that would add 30 minutes to the time each speaker talked (ie, one more session); 6 talks, rather than 5. I mention this because it was of some concern from speakers last year.
- We would need a second person each day to give house tours with Joanie, to break the group into 2 manageable sizes, which should be fine. Maggi would be willing, since Dick will be our official bell-ringer.

\*\*I've emailed Matt Bennett, who gave the talk on female spies at the library last year, if he'd be willing to participate with us this year, and discuss Union female spies with the students.

Waiting to hear back.