

Westport Historical Society Annual Meeting
October 21, 2021
Draft Minutes

1. **Welcome JO and hand over to AL.** JO opened the Zoom Meeting welcoming everyone at 5:00 PM.
2. **Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of 2020. (AL)** It was moved, seconded and **VOTED** to approve the minutes from the Annual Meeting October 15, 2020
3. **Presentation of the slate of nominees for the Board of Directors 2021-2022(AL)** Sean Leach has reached the end of his second term. Emily Hoeffel has stepped down to do additional research for Cadman's Neck. Steve Fletcher is the newest Board member and a great contributor. Members will include Charlie Appleton, Buzzy Baron, Yvonne Barr, Libby Baylies, Cindy Brown, Steve Fletcher, Al Lees, Sam Manley, Laura Raposa, Katrina Strozik, and Poo White. It was moved, seconded and **VOTED** to accept the slate for the 2021-2022 season.
4. **Executive Director's Report (JO).** The Handy House Heritage Trail had many public events: 2 Story Walks, an Archaeological Audio Tour using a smart phone by Holly Herbster, a tour for Tree Talk by Greg Morton using smart phone technology. In October there was a Halloween Trail which involved looking for witches and ravens. Elizabeth James Perry, a Wampanoag Indian, has written Native Trails which will be posted on the trail in November. Also using a smart phone there is an audio tour of the Head of Westport with 24 stops comparing then and now. Handy House was opened in August, and in September the Artisan Fair was a success, thanks to Katrina Strozik. Betty Slade managed the cleaning and restoration of gravestones in the summer and fall. The roof and the bell at the Bell School have been repaired. The Collections Committee acquired a desk with a Cory provenance and the logbook of a voyage on the Harbinger. JO thanked Board members, and Kathleen McAreavey, Ray Shaw, Terry Somerson, the docents for Handy House, The Research Committee, the Facilities Committee and Tim Palmer for their help.
5. **Treasurer's Report (CB):** Despite the fact that there was no House Tour this year, the balance sheet is good. The membership drive was good. \$200,000 will be used for the Bell School repairs. Sharon Connors gave a major gift in memory of Tony Connors which is restricted for the renovation of the Bell School. There was also support from the Rathmann Family Foundation for general operating support, and Neil Van Sloun contributed to the Sylvan Foundation. The Island Foundation gave money to support the Native American Interpretation on the Handy House Heritage Trail. BayCoast Bank gave in support in support of the gravestone cleaning and restoration activities.
6. **Presentation of the local history award (AL)** The award was presented to Russ Hart who has lived his life in Westport, held multiple positions in the town, and has been helpful with his deep knowledge of Westport's history.
7. **Bell School Vision and Plans (AL,JO)** Nick Burns chaired a committee which worked on ideas of what the Bell School might become. In a few months the school will be raised, put on a solid foundation and renovation will begin. The school needs structural changes. In doing all these projects everything in the Bell School will have to be moved out to do the work. When the work is done, the Bell School will be able to serve the community as a history center for a long time.

There being no other business, it was moved, seconded and **VOTED** to adjourn the meeting at 6:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth White, clerk