

REAL PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT

February 12, 2015

As you know everything at the Museums is at a standstill, including the War Office, which is buried in knee deep snow. The last report, from the contractors tells me that the mason is ready to start work on rebuilding the chimney. Steve Marshall is beginning to gather materials.

The Property Committee met at the Russell Library in Middletown on January 10th. The first order of business was to elect Daniel Benoit as our Treasurer, replacing Emmitt Lyman. Emmitt has served us well and deserves our utmost gratitude. He has volunteered to be our Postman in East Haddam. We also, voted to make signature corrections on the Liberty Bank account. Daniel Benoit will be the first signature and Robert Rivard will be the secondary. This item has already taken effect. Further discussions included, budget requests, projects, grants, and docent schedule. I was asked to compile, visitor numbers, docent hours and wages for the purpose of setting next seasons schedule. I can report that we had 5,263 visitors, with 2,707 being greeted by our volunteers and 2,556 being greeted by our paid docents. A complete report is available upon request .

We are continuing our requests for grant monies to help with special projects. To date the Frank Loomis Palmer Fund has not been approved for the HVAC unit at Nathan Hale, New London. The grant from DAR for the 3 picnic tables at East Haddam was denied. We had requested \$2,000 to hire someone to develop new educational curricula for the East Haddam School House, from the Community Foundation of Middlesex County. That request was denied.

The Committee met briefly on February 7th to review the above mentioned report. The main topic of discussion concerned ways to cut payroll by reducing hours. Closing the Museums on Wednesdays and Thursdays would save about \$3,500. Ending the visitor season at the end of September would be another savings. No matter what day, we would find a way to be there for school groups.

The Lease for Nathan Hale Schoolhouse with the City of New London is a piece of old business that needs to be finished. I am hoping to meet with Mayor Finizio or Laura Natusch in the near future to be updated in order to move forward. April 2014 correspondence shows that we were at the final details.

Another matter of unfinished business is the Thames River Heritage Park. Briefly, this a collection of independent heritage institutions, sites, and historic districts. I believe this is similar to the Lebanon Consortium, but on a bigger scale. Maybe we should consider some involvement in this project. In a few years the National Coast Guard Museum will be at our front door, what a shame if we miss out. As of right now there are no fees involved that would stop us from belonging. I am trying to make contact with Penny Parsekian, Development, Communications & Special Projects, Avery –Copp House, to be briefed on where we stand. They made contact with us on July 24, 2014 asking for a letter of support, somehow this fell through the cracks. We are possibly beyond that phase.

Last item; The Committee feels that there should be more participation from the Membership by volunteering as Docents. This would allow us to lower our expenses and put our money to better use.

The plan to pay your dues for volunteering at least four times is still in effect. Last year only 8 SAR members took advantage of this, while there were 14 DAR ladies that helped out.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Packard".

David Packard

CTSSAR Real Property Steward