

COLONEL DANIEL PUTNAM ASSOCIATION, INC.
Minutes from July 26, 2008 Meeting

Houston Putnam Lowry called the meeting to order at 1:13 pm.

Present were Elizabeth Beach, Nancy Bell, Emily Gibbs, Scott Gibbs, Sue Jaynes, Webb Jaynes, Kay Jones, Houston Putnam Lowry, Bill MacLaren, Katie MacLaren, Morgan MacLaren, Chris Mathany, Alyosha Mathany, Kyle Mathany, Svetlana Mathany, Myrtle Morse, Ann Putnam, Doug Putnam, Jennifer Putnam, Charlie West, Connor West, Georgia West and Liz West

Doug Putnam made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting as presented and Myrtle Morse seconded. The minutes were then unanimously approved by the membership present.

Building/Putnam Elms structure Report

Bill MacLaren discussed the content of the mailing that was sent recently to the membership regarding repairing Putnam Elms. Water has compromised the integrity of the section over the kitchen and a porch support needs to be replaced. He also presented the possibility of building a “net zero” house, a small, energy efficient house for a caretaker on the old Kingswood site. This would help the property in terms of maintenance and routine access for families and groups to use the main house and grounds. There may also be potential for consolidating other local historic organizations at Putnam Elms.

Kay Jones suggested separating the two issues as she owns Little Datchet next door to Putnam Elms. Kay presented some of the history of the house and the possibility of using Little Datchet as the caretaker’s home. We will report on the results of our discussion with her.

Houston Putnam Lowry suggested focusing today’s discussion on the repairs to Putnam Elms.

Liz West thanked Bill MacLaren for his work in bringing people in to assess needed repairs.

Scott Gibbs confirmed that, if structurally suitable, the upstairs space above the kitchen would be left as open space after the repairs.

Nancy Bell asked about the proposed contractor’s ability to do this type of work. Bill MacLaren stated that his on-site interviews led him to believe that His Light Builders, Inc. would be competent.

Scott Gibbs asked if he has credentials for working on historic homes. Elizabeth Beach and Bill MacLaren indicated that he does.

Also discussed was the possibility of doing more while the repairs are being made. Bill MacLaren expressed belief that it's possible other needed repairs will be discovered during the intended repairs.

Kay Jones expressed concern that integrity of architecture be preserved as much as possible.

Houston Putnam Lowry asked for approval for the concept of the repairs as presented in the mailing and assured the membership that if something major comes up he will communicate with the membership for discussion.

Doug Putnam made a motion to approve and Nancy Bell seconded. The motion was then unanimously approved by the membership present.

Financial Report

The report was mailed to the membership before the meeting for review. Doug Putnam and Houston Putnam Lowry outlined current investment strategy. A few things will be sold including, Starbucks. Generally speaking we are solvent and have the money to undertake the repairs without too much strain.

Morgan MacLaren moved to approve the financial report. Scott Gibbs seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously by the membership.

Old Trinity is re-painting and there was a discussion about the CDPA contributing to their efforts.

Scott Gibbs made a motion to contribute \$2,500.00 and Doug Putnam seconded. The motion was then unanimously approved by the membership present.

Nominating Committee

Houston Putnam Lowry asked for volunteers for the nominating committee. There was a discussion about the usefulness of the committee and Houston emphasized that members are encouraged to participate at any level.

Scott Gibbs will take the lead for this year's committee. Katie MacLaren and Jennifer Putnam volunteered to assist.

Emily Gibbs made a motion for the three members to be on the nominating committee and Doug Putnam seconded. The motion was then unanimously approved by the membership present.

Membership News, Old and New Business

No new members were nominated.

Two CDPA member deaths were reported: Pepper Perry and C. David West

Myrtle Morse made a motion that \$100 be donated to Planned Parenthood in honor of Pepper Perry. Morgan MacLaren seconded. The motion was then unanimously approved by the membership present.

Myrtle Morse has graciously again offered to cook a turkey for the fall meeting lunch and asks that people bring potluck elements to go with the turkey. It is requested that members RSVP before the meeting and indicate what food they intend to bring.

In old business, Ian MacLaren checked on the status of signage at the Wolf Den. He met the park warden who told him that Mashamouquet Park is responsible for replacing the sign and that they will take care of it. The original sign was presented to the DAR by the CDPA in 1920.

Nancy Bell thanked the membership for allowing her family to use Putnam Elms for their 50th wedding anniversary.

The fall meeting will be Nov. 1st or Nov. 8th.

Scott Gibbs announced that he took the piece of original wallpaper back to Washington DC and had it preserved and scanned. He's suggested that everything at Putnam Elms be scanned and kept in a safe deposit box for safety.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 pm.

Katie MacLaren
Secretary