

# Colonel Daniel Putnam Association, Inc.

## Minutes from July 15, 2018 Members' Meeting

The members' meeting was held at Putnam Elms and called to order at 1:13 pm.

Present were: Janet Booth, Scott Gibbs, Moira Jones, Sophie Jones, Carol Lowry, Houston Putnam Lowry, Bill MacLaren, Diane MacLaren, Katie MacLaren, Morgan MacLaren, Kathy Perry, Rob Perry, Jennifer Putnam, Scott Richards (Warden for Old Trinity), Charley West, and Liz West

**November meeting minutes:** Reviewed; Kathy Perry identified that the November minutes included an incorrect spelling of her first name, which should be spelled "Kathy. "

Motion to approve the November, 2017 minutes made by Houston Putnam Lowry/seconded by Carol Lowry, unanimous approval

**Old Business:** The wedding dress and Malbone chair at PE were appraised and the Newport Historical Society representative had come to look at them. We had agreed to loan them (three year periods) where they would be either stored or display accordingly. They are not preserved effectively at PE. We had decided to deliver them to Newport but it has not happened yet.

Liz will reconnect with the Newport Historical Society about the loans.

**Financials:** Houston reviewed the financials; the CDPA has made it back from the 2007 financial drop and we're doing pretty well at this point. We haven't had any big expenditures in 2017 as we have in past years.

Scott Richards presented the state and needs of Old Trinity and they will likely add a camera out front to identify late night visitors because of damage that's been done. They have received a \$5,000 bequest to the Old Trinity Fund. A proposal was made to donate \$2500 from the Church Fund (half match of the bequest) to the fund for Old Trinity by Scott Gibbs/Rob Perry seconded, unanimous approval.

Morgan pointed out that since PE and Old Trinity seem to need some big tree work, we might coordinate use of a tree company for Old Trinity and PE to contain mobilization costs.

Liz mentioned that a portion of the roof probably needs to be looked at as well as part of the ceiling on the second floor and assessed to come up with a repair plan.

Motion to accept the financial report was made by Jen Putnam/Scott Gibbs seconded, unanimous approval

**Grounds:** Bill reported that a copper pipe burst when the house was re-opened, need to invest in a couple more dehumidifiers to keep the basement dry.

Morgan reported that gypsy moths took a toll on a lot of the trees - some came back but some didn't. Need to get a quote to remove the trees that should go (possibly Linden Tree; can pay for half or full days) - need to prioritize what needs to go first. Bill says he can get two quotes.

Motion to approve up to \$10,000 in 2018 on prioritizing tree pruning/removal at PE made by Rob Perry/Houston Putnam Lowry seconded, unanimous approval

Morgan reported that the paint job on the house was done really well. They took it down to the bare board, found rot and newspapers stuffed into holes. The process was arduous and more expensive than anticipated but glad to have it done.

There's a lot of planting to be done - now that there's irrigation Morgan will be able to start planting. Discussed need for regular work at PE, especially without anyone else working there right now. Liz West proposed that Morgan be directly paid monthly for 25 hours a month at \$60/hr and bill CDPA anything additional if needed/Houston Putnam Lowry seconded; unanimous approval

**House:** We have no one currently to oversee the house needs and potential programming. Liz West has done outreach around the area to historical societies, schools, etc. but was not contacted by anyone interested. Discussed at length including the possibility of reaching out to Melody Guillemette to see if she knows anyone who might be a good fit and creating it as a paid internship to entice a student.

Carol Lowry indicated that she can help with a background check when it comes to it and needs the person's full name, address, previous 4 years addresses, maiden name, DOB, SS, driver's license, and passport #.

#### **Donated Items to CDPA:**

Houston Putnam Lowry brought items that had been in a possession of Alfred Day Putnam; the wedding slippers of Catharine Brinley when she married Godfrey Malbone, Jr. at Christmas, 1757. Houston made a motion for CDPA to accept/Rob Perry seconded, unanimous approval

Moira and Sophie brought Emily Sophie Brown's Reed organ, 19<sup>th</sup> century, not playable at the moment but an interesting piece. Also boxes of letters that were written by Sophie Jones when she was in college. Liz West made a motion for CDPA to accept / Jennifer Putnam seconded, unanimous approval

**Alarms:** Morgan hasn't received any calls; discussed getting internet into the house which has been explored but has previously been very expensive; possibly explore if we look to put electricity in the shed (Scott W suggested Charter or Spectrum); also discussed cameras.

Liz will contact the cable companies.

Liz will also contact the town building inspector.

Sophie Jones also mentioned that PE doesn't come up on Google Maps as such.

Jennifer Putnam would like to take over the CDPA website. Need to get passwords and codes from Cindy. Liz will get them from her and pass to Jen.

Rob Perry would like to work with Janet Booth to create a CDPA/PE logo and the right font for a table skirt for the Brooklyn Fall Fest in September; discussed the fact that we may not have a logo by then but could get the table skirt anyway and leave space for it to be included later.

**Board of Directors:** Liz explained the positions and emphasized that they are volunteer positions- need a slate of potential Board members for November vote. Sophie Jones expressed interest as did Janet Booth. Liz asked that anyone who is interested contact her directly.

**Dues:** Houston reported that we usually get about a few hundred dollars when we send out a notice. Used to go out in a USPS mailing but hasn't gone out in a while. Rob will send Houston the updated membership list and Houston will mail out the minutes from the July meeting, financials, dues notice, notice about the 9/29/18 fall fest and notice about the November 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Liz will also email it out.

Moira asked how the mailing list is managed and suggested looking at MailChimp - Rob will look into it with Moira.

**CDPA Philanthropic possibility:** John Laskey had submitted a proposal related to enhancing the CDPA's philanthropy and charitable giving in the spirit of Emily Malbone Morgan's interests in supporting women in need. Katie has further researched the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut which provides scholarships to individuals as well as grants to organizations through its Northeast Area Women & Girls Fund. Katie has spoken with them about possibilities and will make a proposal at the November meeting. She will also discuss possible collaboration with them to use the property/house for programming.

Scott Gibbs presented the idea of the future of CDPA/PE as a three-pronged stool including the historical significance of the property, the connection to the extended family, and social consciousness and outreach to the community. Liz West noted that we have focused on being a historical house museum which hasn't been working on its own.

Rob Perry noted that the town of Brooklyn expressed interest in the PE property which would join existing properties owned by the town. Discussion of whether or not we would want to give up any of the property and use rights. Rob challenged all present to ponder between now and the next meeting.

Morgan and several others indicated that they will be available for the Brooklyn Fall Fest (9/29/18) - see notes below end of minutes.

Rob will call Rick Ives to see if we have a table at the fall fest

Liz thanked everyone in attendance for their work to support the organization.

Next meeting will be Saturday, November 3rd at noon.

Bill MacLaren made a motion to adjourn and Rob Perry seconded. Unanimous approval.

Adjourned at 3:33 pm.

*Katie MacLaren*  
Secretary

Prior to the meeting being called to order:

Melody Guillemette, Honorary Regent on the Board of the Deborah Avery Putnam chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Plainfield, CT (860.428.0882) spoke with those assembled about the celebration of Israel Putnam's 300th birthday on 9/29/18 at the Brooklyn Fall Fest. They have created an Israel Putnam cancellation stamp that they would like to deploy but in order to receive permission from Washington, DC they must have approval from at least one of Israel Putnam's direct descendants. All direct descendants in attendance signed the letter granting permission for the cancellation stamp.

The festivities will include:

Sala Tarantino commander of Sheldon's Light Dragoons

Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) Israel Putnam Branch Color Guard

Deborah Avery Putnam chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)

Sarah Williams chapter of the DAR

Captain Joel Cook Society of the Children of the American Revolution (CAR)

Local and State officials

Lots of activities planned including having PE open - Morgan has volunteered to open up the house