



Bay Shore Historical Society

Gibson-Mack-Holt House c.1820

22 Maple Avenue Bay Shore, NY 11706 (631) 665-1707
www.bayshorehistoricalsociety.org e-mail bayshohissoc@optonline.net

September 21, 2017

Meeting Notes

Barry called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM and all stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Barry reminded everyone that Ed Mooney will speak about 'The History of the Fire Island Ferries' at the October 19 meeting. Priscilla provided an update on community events including (1) a coat drive with donations collected at the First Baptist Church and Astoria Bank for distribution on November 4; (2) the brook behind the First Baptist Church has been stocked with trout; (3) brochures were made available of the YMCA programs (4) bumper stickers that say 'We Believe in Bay Shore Schools' were made available; (5) The Beautification Society is asking residents and businesses to display Pumpkin People; (6) The Beautification Society will be hosting a Haunted Halloween Festival on Saturday, October 21 on Main Street from 4:00 PM to 8:30 PM. Kelly read the minutes of the August 17 meeting. JoAnn reported membership is 315. Joe reported income was \$670 and expenses were \$719.

The speaker for the evening was Bob Doxsee. Bob spoke about 'The Doxsee Legacy: Growing up in a Fishing Family'. He spoke about the history of his family and the family business. The Doxsee family was known for fishing and its seafood processing business. James Harvey Doxsee ran the family farm in Islip that included a cannery. Corn and tomatoes were canned there. J.H. Doxsee & Sons became the first Long Island company to can hard-shelled clams and bottle clam juice. J.H. Doxsee & Sons also began to can "American Lunch Fish". This was bunker bait fish processed like sardines. Advertisements claimed that clam juice would cure indigestion, constipation, hangovers and other ailments. When the operation moved to Meadow Island it was renamed Bright Eye Fish Company. Bright Eye Fish Company used "pound traps" which is a maze of nets to catch migrating fish on the bay bottom. The Company then transition to dredging for clams. Bob showed an array of family photos while he shared his family legacy.

Barry thanked Bob for his presentation and invited everyone for refreshments.

Respectfully submitted by Kelly Zebro

The mission of the Bay Shore Historical Society is to collect, preserve and share the rich history of our community and to maintain the c. 1820 Gibson-Mack-Holt House which is located at 22 Maple Ave, Bay Shore, NY. The Society's collection of photographs, memorabilia, and historic documents is open to the public free of charge on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 1pm to 4pm. For further information contact 631-665-1707 or visit the Society's website > www.bayshorehistoricalsociety.org. The Bay Shore Historical Society is an all-volunteer, tax exempt not-for-profit corporation as described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.