



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

February 15, 2018

Meeting Notes

Barry called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and all stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. News12 and CBS had a news story about the baby negatives. The stories were great exposure for the Historical Society and has brought a constant flow of people, emails, donations and members. Priscilla provided an update of from the Summit Council and Chamber of Commerce meetings including (1) \$45,000 goal reached to create a wall of Bay Shore alumni that are veterans; (2) Completion of the remodel of the Boulton Center lobby; (3) Donations to purchase hanging baskets around town (\$50 a basket); (4) the Distinguished Citizens dinner honoring the Beautification Society in April; (5) May 19 Family Day at the Bay Shore Marina; and (6) June 20 Beautification Society luncheon. Kelly read the minutes of the January 18, 2018 meeting. Joann reported there were 10 new members. Joe reported expenses were \$907.00 and income was \$1,351.00. This includes donations for the baby negatives and in memory of for John Vanderveer Gibson. For anyone who wants to march with the Historical Society on Saturday, March 10 in the St. Patrick's Day parade please meet on Saxon Avenue at 1:30 PM.

The speaker for the evening was Dr. Neil P. Buffett a History professor at Suffolk County Community College. He presented high school student environmental activism on Long Island and in New York City. His focus was on the 1960's and 1970's.

Most studies focus on college age students and overlook high school students. President Richard Nixon established the President's Environmental Merit Awards Program for High School Students. The program recognized high school students at a local level. Everyone that applied to the program received an award. Nixon thought if the students were acknowledged this would entice parents to vote for him so he would be re-elected. Under President Jimmy Carter the program was renamed the President's Environmental Youth Award.

The Nissequogue Environmental Committee (N.E.C) was an environmental group consisting of students from Saint Anthony's High School in Smithtown. Kenneth Dunton was the founder of the

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.



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

N.E.C. The N.E.C was committed to preserving the Nissequogue River from 1970 to 1979. Members of the N.E.C tested the rivers waters for ecological impurities and inorganic pollutants and published their findings in 3 different reports (1971, 1973 and 1977). Dr. Buffett has an article published in the Long Island History Journal about the N.E.C. The article can be found here:

<https://lihj.cc.stonybrook.edu/2009/articles/we-were-pretty-gung-ho-we-were-going-to-save-the-world-high-school-student-activism-in-defense-of-long-island%E2%80%99s-nissequogue-river-1970-1979/>

The Students for Environmental Quality (SEQ) was another environmental group of students from Bellport high school. The club was founded in 1970, the same year Earth Day was officially recognized. The SEQ was founded by biology teacher Art Cooley, who started the Environmental Defense Fund with Dennis Puleston. In 1973, members of the SEC rode bicycles to Albany with a jar of water from the Carmans River to try to make it a designated Wild and Scenic River. The publicity paid off and the river was named a 'study river'. In 1974 the SEQ published a detailed report that they submitted to the DEC. This report helped create the Carmans River Protection Act.

A third environmental group was the Marine Biology Club at John Dewey High School. Unlike the other two organizations this club was part of the school curriculum. In 1970 the marine biology class went to Plum Beach for an Earth Day clean-up. It also helped dismiss a proposal by the Army Corps of Engineers to put up an 8 to 12-foot storm wall with doors at Plum Beach. The students in the marine biology class researched the negative impacts of the wall and presented the science that partially helped to have the proposal dismissed.

Barry thanked Neil 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.