



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

April 18, 2019

Meeting Notes

Barry called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and all stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. There was a moment of silence for Helen DiMaria. Barry noted that next month's meeting is on May 16, 2019 and the presenter will be Maureen Dunn from Seatuck. Barry gave a progress update on the work being done on the second floor of the Gibson Mack Holt House. Barry thanked Joe for the incredible amount of work he has been doing. Kelly read the minutes of the March 21, 2019 meeting. Priscilla provided an update on community events including: (1) Distinguished Citizen Award Dinner is May 16, 2019; (2) "Serving up Summer", Southside Hospital's Tennis Classic is being held at Southward Ho Country Club on June 14, 2019; (3) The YMCA is offering members \$5 off tickets to performances at the YMCA Boulton Center; (4) The High School Alumni Dinner was a huge success; (5) The Hibernian Festival Singers at the Library is April 28, 2019; (6) An Easter Egg Hunt will take place at Wohseepee Park on April 20, 2019; (7) New stop signs have been put up in Brightwaters; (8) The Bay Shore Garden Club presents A Standard Flower Show Bay Shore Brightwaters Treasured Past at the Library on May 17 and May 18, 2019. Joe reported income was \$170 and expenses were \$6597. The expenses include renovation costs and a new WIFI network.

The speaker for the evening was Kevin Weicks. Kevin is a Landscape Curator at the Bayard Cutting Arboretum. He presented about the 'Historic Landscapes at Bayard Cutting Arboretum'.

Kevin began his slideshow with a picture of the original Cutting estate including the farmhouse, greenhouse and trees from 1930. Mr. Cutting planted for aesthetics and for purpose. He planted to provide protection for the house. He also planted for the future. This is called succession planting.

In 1936 the Long Island State Park Commission was gifted the Cutting estate for use as an arboretum. In 1939 the property was the cover photo of Landscape Architecture Magazine. The mission statement of the arboretum is "to provide an oasis of beauty and quiet for the pleasure, rest and refreshment of those who delight in outdoor beauty; and to bring about a greater appreciation and understanding of the value and importance of informal planting." The park is 691 acres with 2 miles of waterfront. There are 50,000 visitors per year. Hurricane Gloria did a lot of damage and the arboretum was closed for 2 years.

Kevin then provided an overview of each of the collections at the arboretum:

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Four Seasons Garden - This is the showcase perennial garden. It has appeal during every season all year round. It is fragrant and has diversity in texture, height, shape and color.

The CSA Farm - It was not a working farm for a long time. Now it is the only CSA farm in a NYS Park with 50 – 60 members yearly. The farm also sells honey and eggs from their chickens. This season they will be opening a farm stand.

Holly Collection - Holly is a very historic plant. The Holly Collection includes the holly maze garden.

Conifer Garden - The arboretum has always been known for its conifers. The conifers in this collection are mostly new cutting-edge conifers.

Dwarf Conifer Garden - This garden is within the conifer garden. Ed Rezek had this garden at his house and the collection was donated to the arboretum. The plants had to be identified at the house and transplanted. A DVD birthday message from Ed Rezek walking through his own garden helped to identify and tell the history of the plants.

Westbrook Wall Garden - This is an old-fashioned garden designed around the wall built by Frederick Law Olmsted. Many wedding photos are taken under the archway here.

Woodland Garden - This is a waterside garden. It includes a bridge with locust post railings.

Breezy Island - This is an example of historic interpretation. It is a man-made island where the Cuttings built a rustic structure for Mrs. Cutting tea house. The tea house was determined to have structural issues and was demolished. A restoration project to reclaim the island from bamboo and rebuild the house, inspired by the original was completed.

Oak Park - Part of the original Frederick Law Olmsted property design. This was the original entrance. Visitors would drive along Oak Park with views of Black Oaks. The Black Oak is one of the oldest trees at the arboretum.

Tree Peony Walk - Peonies are a very historic plant. They only bloom for a short period of time. The arboretum contains peonies from 3 different breeders.

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Patio Restoration - Wisteria had overgrown the patio of the Manor House. This was removed and saved. Restoration of the patio is nearly complete. The Hidden Oak Café is in the Manor House by the patio.

To wrap up his presentation, Kevin mentioned the mobile phone app for the arboretum that shows a map and gives all the information about each tree. He also mentioned there are symposiums, tours and workshops at the arboretum. Senior Passes are also available.

Barry thank Kevin for his presentation and invited everyone for refreshments.

Respectfully submitted by Kelly Zebro

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