



# 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

June 20, 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 Kenneth Collins, a longtime member. Barry noted that a mailing went out that included membership renewal forms, reservation forms for the Annual Dinner and 3 raffle tickets. Barry mentioned that Barker Ahmad, one of the student volunteers, was awarded the Peter Fox Cohalan Scholarship. Another student volunteer had won this scholarship two years ago. Barry congratulated Matthew Miller on earning his master's in social work from Adelphi in May. Barry also congratulated Priscilla Hancock on 25 years of retirement. Barry thanked Susanne Ankner for taking the May meeting minutes. The minutes are posted on the website and hardcopy are available on the table. Joe reported income was \$397 and expenses were \$1,206.47. Joann reported there are over 100 members before any renewal membership forms received. Priscilla provided an update on community events including: (1) The Summit Council urges people contact Angie Carpenter directly about the parking meters; and (2) The Beautification Society is celebrating 25 year.

Barry presented the list of officers being nominated this year. They are: Priscilla Hancock – First Vice President, Jewell Jacobsen – Corresponding Secretary, Joe Pers – Treasurer, Dianne Hartill – Trustee and Maryann Feeney – Trustee. Barry asked for any other nominations. There being none, the vote was taken, and a unanimous yes vote was received. Officers will be installed at the Annual Dinner.

The speaker for the evening was Bill Bleyer. Bill is a journalist, historian, researcher, and author. He presented Little Known Facts of Long Island Maritime History from his is new book, "Long Island at Sea: A Maritime History".

Captain Thomas Roys was a prominent whaling captain out of Sag Harbor. He devoted his life to hunting whales and to the study of whales. He is also considered the founder of the modern whaling industry and whaling tools. He lost his left hand experimenting with the first rocket-powered harpoon gun. He was the first American to sail through the Bering Strait and the first to discover the bowhead whale. This discovery prolonged the life of the whaling industry. Roys documented the different species of whales he encountered. He kept detailed journals with drawings, observations on size, appearance and behavior, and when and where to hunt each species. These journals are now at the Cold Spring Harbor Whaling Museum.

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](http://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.



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Montauk Point Lighthouse is the oldest lighthouse in New York State. It was authorized by President George Washington. Race Rock Lighthouse is off the western end of Fisher Island. During the first season of construction the foundation was laid, but with the strong currents at this location it was washed away. It took about nine years to complete the lighthouse. In 2013, the New London Maritime Society took over ownership. Shinnecock Bay Lighthouse is located between the lighthouses at Fire Island and Montauk Point. It was the tallest in New York State. The Coast Guard took down the lighthouse by cutting holes in the brick, inserting timbers and setting the timbers on fire.

The Nassau was the first regularly scheduled steam-powered ferry from Brooklyn to Manhattan. Cornelius Vanderbilt commissioned a paddlewheel steamboat called the Lexington to be the fastest and most luxurious in operation. It operated in the Long Island Sound. In mid-January, halfway through the ship's voyage, the ship's smokestack caught fire and igniting the bales of cotton that were stored on deck. 4 people, out of the 143 on board, survived. The Lexington fire remains Long Island Sound's worst maritime disaster.

New Suffolk became the home of America's first submarine base. The Holland, designed by John P. Holland, was a technological breakthrough in submarines. It was 53 feet long, could travel at 7 knots and had one torpedo tube. The Holland took naval officers and VIPs on demonstration runs. The Holland was the first submarine to ever be formally commissioned by the U.S. Navy.

Theodore Roosevelt, who vacationed at Sagamore Hill and docked the presidential yacht in Oyster Bay, ordered the Plunger to the Long Island Sound. The Plunger was a submarine torpedo boat. During TR's tour of the Plunger he ordered the submarine to dive. TR spent nearly an hour submerged. He inspected equipment, watched procedure and briefly took the controls himself.

The first commercial flight across the Atlantic began in Manhasset Bay at the Marine Air Terminal. It was on a flying boat called a Clipper. The flight stopped in Azores, then Portugal and finally landed in France.

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

Respectfully submitted by Kelly Zebro

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