

Bayside Historical Preservation Society



“Somewhere in Bayside”

Can you figure out where this is in the village?

Newsletter Spring 2021

President- Joe Reilly . Vice President- Beverly Crofoot

Treasurer- Heidi Von Bergen,

Board of directors- Marjorie Crowley Wendy Huntoon,

Fred Lincoln, Harry Rosenblum, Cathie Ross,

Joy Sherman Lisa Webster

Little did I, or anyone I know, think that a year plus after the start of the Pandemic we'd still be worried about the health of our nation, but here we are in the middle of 2021 still wondering when it will be over. The BHPS like so many groups in Bayside had a "non" summer last year. We look forward to this summer although our activities will still be guided by the Overseers and Maine CDC..... and the brown tailed moth!

If you remember, last year the cradle yard and our museum, Shady Grove, were invaded and covered by the brown tailed moths- we eventually had to power wash our building in order to get the moths off but sadly Basil's worker, who did the job, broke out in a body rash when he was done! The NVC also sprayed the area in the fall!

This summer promises to be better! So far, the moth invasion seems less severe- Gordon says the yard looks much better- fingers crossed! The Maine CDC and the Overseers have approved limited opening of the Museum and Community Hall (upstairs). Our activities will again be curtailed but they will at least happen.

Thank you all for your continued membership in the BHPS and the NYC last year. We hope to merit your continued support this year.



BHPS Zoomers!

The BHPS board has had a number of Zoom meetings. We recently voted to recommend to the Overseers that the NVC keep and maintain the cement winch base in Ruggles Park. We are looking for Baysiders who have memories of seeing it in action and especially photos of the structure that once stood there. We are committed to posting a plaque in front of it to explain its purpose and how it related to the waterfront. The plaque will be posted by the end of the summer. BHPS members worked on the tree committee as well as the waterfront lighting committee this winter. Please notice the antique photos in the newsletter with examples of earlier lighting found in Bayside!



Photograph postcard from the 40s showing the original winch housing in Ruggles Park.

We are excited to be able to open the Museum on a limited basis as well as host an activity in the Community Hall in August. We will follow current CDC guidelines for these events. Our activity will be the third annual “Collectors Day” hosted by Rob and Joy Sherman. It will be held upstairs at the Community Hall in August. Please read Joy’s article about this event.

Beverly Crofoot has been working throughout the pandemic to digitalize the sizable collections of postcards and photos given to the BHPS by John Dykstra and Marilyn Duane. We hope to eventually get all of these up on our website so that people can access them.

We are also excited about the continued effort to record and transcribe Bayside Oral Histories, a project originally headed up by Gina Cressey. Fred Lincoln has agreed to head up the project and will be looking for volunteers to record Bayside stories and memories.

This summer, Aaron Cohen has promised to issue more copies of the updated Seabreeze Newspaper. His two issues last summer were a tremendous success! Thanks Aaron!

As Bayside slowly comes back to life we are encouraged by the rebirth in Spring and the chance to see neighbors and friends once again this summer.

Joe Reilly

FINAL TREASURER'S REPORT 1/1/20-12/31/20

General Fund Balance 1/1/20 **\$21,651.51**
Income

2020 Donations	2,445.95
2020 Dues	760.00
Book Sales - wholesale	297.00
Interest Income	5.95
Total Income	\$3,508.90

Expenses

Advertising MAM	35.00
Insurance	500.00
Donations to Community	2,525.13
Maine Filing Fee	35.00
Mission (museum items, student help)	1,452.80
Museum Maintenance	475.00
PO Box Rental	106.00
Sales Tax ME Paid 2019	18.21
Utilities	546.33
Total Expenses	\$5,730.38
Dif	- \$2,221.48

WORKING CAPITAL 12/31/20	Assets
Camden National Checking	\$ 3,252.29
Camden National Savings	\$ 16,177.74
Pay Pal	162.04
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 19,592.07
Petty Cash	0

General Fund Balance 12/31/20 **\$ 19,592.07**

Treasurer's Report 1/1/20-12/31/20

Our membership got off to a very slow start in this pandemic summer but we achieved 115 members compared to 91 for the normal summer of 2019! Thank you to those who recruited past members! Most people paid by check, the old fashioned way, but because we received 8 memberships online, we have a line now for the Pay Pal Account.

We hired a student to catalogue our photo collection and Joe found exciting museum artifacts. We gave generously to the Food Bank, the Merithew shrub project and Rob Sherman for his huge labors on the wooden fence of Merithew Park.

Respectfully submitted,
Heidi von Bergen, Treasurer

There has been some discussion as to whether the spelling of Merithew Sq. is like this or Merrithew. Beverly Crofoot's research indicates some long-term spelling trends. Look for more of Beverly's history of the Bayside Parks coming this summer!

The Republican Journal, June 9, 1881.

The new road which begins at the foot of the long hill near the former entrance and ends at Merithew square, is a great convenience, but needs further improvements to be entirely the new road which begins at the foot of the long hill near the former entrance and ends at Merithew square, is a great convenience, but needs further improvements to be entirely satisfactory.

RJ August 20, 1885

Rev. W.H. Pilsbury of Bucksport is again spending his summer at his cottage on Merithew square. He is a veteran clergyman being now in his 78th year, and in the early days of the Association he was an active and leading spirit here, having had charge for several years.

photo page 107 of BHPS book

RJ August 12, 1886

Mrs. S.I. Dodge of Belfast has lately purchased the Vickery cottage, Merithew Square. She says some furniture has been taken from the cottage, and the party who took it is known.

RJ July 21, 1892

Mrs. Frank Lennan of Belmont, Mass. is having a neat cottage built at the foot of Merithew Square, which the family will soon occupy. Mr. Cole is doing the work.



Happy and Jim Hilty on the steps of their cottage in Merithew Sq.



Broadway leading into Merithew from Ruggles Park

**Note for the
Bayside Historical Preservation Society**

Having recently spent some time scanning and digitizing the Camp Meeting Minutes for your organization it was a surprise when the next project brought me right back to Bayside. The Belfast Historical Society & Museum was given twenty letters sent to Captain Robert Emery while at sea from his wife Eliza and son Ralph. It was another interesting scanning effort.

In Ralph's letter of August 19, 1877, he tells his father "Camp Meeting begins next week and it is expected that it will be the largest one yet." When I checked the Wesleyan Grove Minutes, sure enough the next day, Monday, the Committee reported "gave promise of a fine day for the assembling of the tent companies and their constantly increasing numbers..." Ralph was right, it was the largest one to date!

It is always interesting when you realize how the events in one community tie to the lives of folks in the neighboring towns and how far their reach is. It would be nice to know where Captain Emery was when he found out that the Camp Meeting was going to be another grand success. Liverpool, England? And what of the other letters that were generated by attendees? How far afield did they go?

Hoping the reach of the Bayside Historical Preservation Society is as wide ranging; I wish you continued success in keeping the story of

Phil Carthage,

Belfast, ME

February 26, 2021





Lighting

Third Annual BHPS Collectors' Day Event

Because of Covid-19 restrictions last summer, we were not able to host the third Collectors' Day event, but this year we would like to attempt to do this because much interest (from both visitors and participators) has been expressed to have it again.

To align ourselves with Covid mandates, we will host it upstairs in the Community Hall where there is lots of room for social distancing and open windows. We are thinking of August 10th as a possible date with the hours as yet to be determined - perhaps 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

We would welcome anyone who would like to share a collection of theirs to join us. Bring your collection with you when you come to Bayside, or perhaps you already have it here? Some of the past collections that have been shared are old tools, duck decoys, dolls, thimbles, pigs, postcards, art education books, and coconut heads. Who knows the range of things people collect?

Please let me know if you are interested in participating:
email: shermanjoy1941@gmail.com

I look forward to hearing from you. Joy Sherman



During what was probably the hottest Sunday in August 2020, several Baysiders gathered at Merithew Square to reclaim the bed of peonies which had been overtaken by weeds. Joy Sherman, Dorrie Lloyd- Stihl, Judy Metcalf, Beverly Crofoot, Maya Stein and Paula Foley-Stelmack worked for an hour at this task. Alongside the gardeners that Sunday morning, Rob Sherman was finishing the new installation of the rustic cedar fence that he and Harold Hede re-created in 2014.

Those peonies beds were originally planted parallel to Broadway. Years ago, during the installation of water pipes (earlier than the hydrant installation), they were dug up and tossed on the grass. Bob Dutton, at the request of the historical society, took the tubers, overwintered them at his nursery in Morrill. In the spring, he reconfigured the bed and planted the peony tubers which have flourished ever since.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

BHPS member and jack-of-all-trades Rob Sherman had a birthday this last December. It still wasn't known how old he really is. Do you remember, several years ago, the exchange his wife Joy and Joe Reilly had at the NVC annual meeting about his age? Both of them were wrong. This time Rob gave a hint: "In another ten years I'll be 100." Some folks still can't compute it—even with paper and pencil.

It might not be worth all the trouble. There is a story told about a man who reached 100. A visitor exclaimed, "A hundred years old! Wow! That's a wonderful record. I guess you're very proud of him." But a neighbor who perhaps knew him better replied, "Oh, I dunno. He ain't done nothing but grow old, and look how long it took him to do that!" Let's hope Rob's legacy is better than that.

Anyway, the mystery now is solved: Rob is 90 years old. To mark the event, last summer some Baysiders celebrated his birthday early with a gathering in Ruggles Park, maybe thinking he might not last for the real event or, more likely, that no one would be around for a party in the winter.

Cake and cookies, and something stronger, and visiting, were enjoyed at the party, thanks to organizing by Cathy Ross and serving by Patti Wright and helpers. More than 30 well-wishers gathered for the festivity. Rob thought that if there had been many more, the party would have to move to Millinocket.

Rob's proclivity for flea markets and yard sales is no secret. He likes old things—which now includes himself. His wife Joy gave him an old, used copy of Dale Carnegie's "How to Win Friends and Influence People," but Rob thought it had come too late.

Dick Brockway reading a proclamation to party goers at Rob's surprise party in Ruggles Park



Congratulations to the members of the Tree Committee on receiving a sizable Maine State grant to restore and replace trees around the village. Thanks especially to Lisa Fryer and Vicky Matthews who shepherded the grant through the process. Part of the grant was a description of Bayside written by John Hoy. We thought that his description was worthy of reprinting in its entirety.



There is evidence of Native fishing presence from earlier centuries, but the look of today's Village of Bayside essentially began with creation of the 19th-century Northport Campground, a Methodist summer retreat for church congregations within reach after a day or two (or three) of travel by train, horse and buggy, or boat. Since those early years, trees have figured in the identities of residents, and they have shaped expressions of the human community. Our Project, Upholding the Bayside Canopy, intends to help foster positive community relationships with trees and forested areas as it addresses aging of the Bayside woodlands.

Typical for seasonal tent platform communities of earlier days, like-minded virtuous congregants would dwell for weeks at a time on devotional holiday near salt water—North Penobscot Bay. Such folks might stay in large cotton tents purchased and managed by church officers. They would listen to ranging sermons, they would engage with a more primal Nature and they would socialize. In fact, a late summer-1899 retrospective in the *Belfast Republican Journal* recalled language from 1865, describing "God's first temple, the grove" <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn78000873/1899-08-31/ed-1/seq-4/>. As interests altered, the locale evolved toward a more conventional summer escape, and more families arrived from farther away—from Boston and New York, Philadelphia and Hawaii—to meet up with their Maine relatives and friends. Construction of a wharf with ready access to deeper water meant steamers (with

electric lights!) carried more recognizable summer rusticators, holding to a



modern timetable.

Meanwhile, nearby hillsides displayed signs of forest harvesting and overgrazing. Those views helped prompt local questions about systems in Nature. Popular awareness of native birds and trees expanded. Too, boundaries were rigidified within more precise language of recorded deeds, a process that preserved dedicated public space. In time, original church plots were transferred to families. Many of today's cottages remain modest (and might be denominated "tiny homes"), built upon those original tent platform spaces and no more. Seasonal homes still signal quaint heritage, nestled within a compact neighborhood requiring a level of gentleness with the topography, near trees stately with age. And a home-grown architectural style known as "carpenter gothic" resonates of those bygone days. Typical of such communities, too, families brought with them personalities, histories and biases—all part of a mix.

Today's Baysiders may be less inclined toward communal religious practice, and steamers no longer visit the wharf, but sight of Nature, the sea, and a richly mixed community remains clear. Similarly, because Bayside is a neighborhood of families who accept a more human scale realized at a walking pace, children, teens and adults discover a sense of belonging under arching limbs of majestic, established trees. "Community resource" seems an appropriate descriptor for Bayside trees, public and private.

Generally, today's residents do appreciate and look out for the trees around them. A successful grant for Upholding the Bayside Canopy would continue investment in the public overstory as it, too, ages. This application seeks adequate funds for purchase, planting and care of five young trees in public spaces to help support ongoing management of a valued complex setting. In

addition, the project should encourage forward thinking regarding roles that trees play in the lives of residents, advancing engagement with the lives of trees and forested areas.

Many very large public trees in Bayside are aging, and they are susceptible to insult—climate change, insect damage, vehicle parking and storms—so significant trees occasionally need to be replaced. In line with these concerns, in recent years the Northport Village Corporation Board of Overseers (modernized from the original Wesleyan Grove Campmeeting Association) established the volunteer position of Tree Warden, along with a volunteer Tree Committee. The Committee created a detailed tree inventory in 2018, and in the last year the Committee determined the most pressing needs. In January 2021 the Overseers approved Village underwriting of the Project application, and a set of volunteers have agreed to assist in projected planting and watering (and some of those volunteers are dedicated with silviculture). Species were selected to complement existing trees, with thought to size, shape, suitability for the setting and life cycle. Administering this Project will be the Tree Warden and Committee members, with assistance by the Bayside Village agent and Corporation bookkeepers. The Maine State Forest Service will be consulted and encouraged to participate in ongoing decision-making.

Formalizing protection and nurturing of the Bayside canopy has already generated active discussions in the larger community. Trees in Bayside—those owned jointly in the parks and rights-of-way as well as those on private property—offer benefits year-round. It is clear they can and should be understood for their needs and how they benefit members of the community, even in other seasons. A cohort of hearty Mainers stay year-round, but most Baysiders are resident May through September—a busy time. Even during this past 2020 summer of pandemic reserve, Village streets would often

ring with the sounds of families out of doors—walking, biking, skating—and the public parks allowed safe, distanced picnics along with marvelous imagined adventure. Porches are generally close to streets, so near neighbors might barely distance from each other standing at their own front doors. Neighbors honor privacy, but they also protect public access to shared, non-private resources. In fact, sunny and shady park areas, modest beaches, a nearby wharf and the swimming dock are open to use by non-residents.

Individual Bayside oaks, beeches, maples, apple, locust, willow, ash or pine of grassy areas merge with the woods and streams to form a fuller biome where many creatures can find pastime and shelter. Mixed groves farther from the Bay foster complex natural systems typical of undeveloped Maine. Squirrels, chipmunks, birds, deer, raccoons, skunks, fishers and, in a quiet season, a moose might amble among the cottages. Of course, with warmer weather insects

resident along the Mid-Coast also manifest. As human generations return to Bayside with each new season, they find trees that also support children, teens, parents and elders. Those trees offer shade, protection and an anchor for topsoil as they mark time's passage, suggesting visual scale for realms of walkers, just as they encourage occasional fun. A successful Project will support the existing overstory as it ages, with hope, too, that a healthy Bayside canopy will foster awareness of the ways that trees support larger human expression.





Shady Grove Museum, now located on Pleasant Street
Open Sundays, 2 – 4 pm, during July and August

BAYSIDE HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY
Membership Application/Payment of Annual Dues

Online Application Form can be found here:

<http://www.baysidehps.org/index.php/membership/>

Name: _____

Winter Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Summer Address: _____

Summer Telephone: _____

E-mail contact: _____

Dues and donations – All dues and donations are tax deductible.

First member of household \$10. _____

Other household members \$ 5.0 Each _____

Children under 18 Free _____

Donation _____

TOTAL _____

Please make check payable to BHPS and mail with this form to
Bayside Historical Preservation Society,
PO Box 273

Lincolntonville, Maine 04849

Please indicate any area of interest you have or ideas for the directors and officer to
consider. How would you like to participate in BHPS?