

BOARD MEETING:

The new Executive Committee held its first meeting on Dec. 4 with the president, Edwin H. Brownell, in the chair. Some of the standing committees were established, but the roster of committee members was not completed at this meeting. Those so far appointed are as follows:

BEAUTIFICATION: Wm. H. Fullerton, Chairman. Mrs. H.E.Eccles, Mrs. Wm. MacLeod, Miss Carrie Ericson, Mrs. Harold Watson, Miss Edith B. Price.

PROTECTION: Dr. David Nemptzow, Chairman. Miss Marianne MacLeod, David L. Smith.

PROPERTIES: Geo. D. Weaver, jr. CH. ENTERTAINMENT (Refreshments) Mrs.

William F. Kitts, Chairman
POINT ASS'N BULLETIN! Miss Edith B. Price, Chairman and Editor.

Still to be established are the General Improvement and Enrichment, Ways and Means, and Membership Committees. There will also be a separate committee on the tree program.

Two additional members were appointed to the Nominating Committee -- Miss Marion Galvin and George D. Weaver, jr. Mrs. Wm. MacLeod was named Chairman.

It was voted to set up a petty cash account limited to \$25, in order to expedite the payment of small bills presented by committee chairmen.

Complaints should be sent to Dr. David Nemptzow, in writing. His committee is hopeful of action.

Letters of thanks were ordered sent to Mr. Garcia, Mr. Behan and Mr. Bowman, relative to the provision of a Christmas tree in the park, and the planting of new trees on Eridge Street, and with the hope that more of the tree planting program may be carried out if weather permits.

The Beautification Committee was named as a committee to take charge of plans for the celebration of Christmas on the Point.

CHRISTMAS PLANS AND
CONTEST

Again there will be a contest for the decoration and illumination of Point houses.

1. For the most appropriate to the meaning of the season.
2. For the most original.
3. For the most effective with least expenditure.

Decorations will be judged on Friday, Dec. 26, between 7 and 9.30 p.m.

Officers and committee chairman of the Point Association will not be eligible for a prize, but may of course decorate.

Miss Nancy Hay, Robert Kerr III, and David Leys, have kindly consented to act as judges.

A prize of five dollars in each class, and a certificate of honorable mention will be awarded.

CHRISTMAS TREE

A large green spruce has been loaned to us by the Public Works Department, and has been planted in Battery Park by Mr. Bowman and his crew, to whom many thanks. Expression of opinion as to whether it is desirable to retain the tree would be welcome. Many feel that it would interfere with the view.

The tree will be lighted for the first time on Christmas Eve, and the Washington Street Carollers will begin their itinerary there about 7.45 p.m.

We hope that a LARGE CROWD will gather to join in the singing of carols, and encourage us to continue the tradition of our own special Christmas on the Point.

Excerpt from THE COURT END OF TOWN, address given before the Quarterly Meeting of The Newport Historical Society, December 9.

. . . I feel that I should close with a special word about certain houses which, besides being of great interest in their own right, have a particular interest to us who have what the Quakers call a "concern" over the Point. . . On the corner of Washington and Chestnut was once the old John Bigelow house, which most of us remember as Bacheller's boarding-house, The Faisneau. . . When Mrs. Guy Norman came into possession of it, it was turned over to the Oldport Association, which moved it, divested of its huge ell, to the corner of Washington and Bridge, on the site of the Nicholas Boss mansion. There it now stands, the pleasant home of Mr. William Fullerton, a past president of The Point Association, bravely making there a charming little buttress against future destruction.

. . . Notable indeed is the home of the Association's president, Edwin Hammond Brownell at 25 Bridge St. Now east Bridge St. is not a very attractive neighborhood - but there stands the Peter Simon house, the grand old mansion to which that scalawag dancing-master brought the Unfortunate Hannah Robinson from Narragansett luxury to poverty, illness and desertion. The house was once in the Hammond family; it is a cause for rejoicing that a descendant now owns, loves and lives in it. Restored, it makes there with its noble lines and lovely garden an oasis beside the railroad track.

. . . Another oasis exists across the way - the house of Caleb Claggett. That wonderful old house with the full brick end was in a fair way to fall down. Esther Morton Bates, a descendant of "Quaker Tom" Robinson, has saved it, and dares to live beside the billboards and floodlights of Cardines Field. (Something has already been said about the Claggetts in a previous GREEN LIGHT, and will not be repeated here.) But old Caleb's daughter Hannah married his apprentice George Gibbs, and went to live at what we now call 9 Chestnut St. This house has been beautifully restored by the skilful labor of our vice-president, George D. Weaver, jr., who sets the very conservative date of 1754 on the house. It is surely much older.

. . . Each of these ventures, these labors of love, may encourage others to seek out old, unloved houses and dare to adopt them. What the Point Association, with no funds to speak of, and nothing but the zeal and hard work of a very few people, is attempting to accomplish, might well be copied by those who hold the future of Newport in their hands. Understanding of Newport's true assets would prevent the sort of destruction and "development" that is going on around us. Pray that such developments may be kept away from the Point - by possible future historic zoning, and by the efforts not only of Pointers but by all Newporters of vision and determination.

. . . Every person of far-sighted courage who dares to buy a neglected old house and goes about the loving labor of restoration, sets one more stepping stone on the road to the Point's renaissance - a rebirth which could be of the greatest value historically, aesthetically and economically to the overall progress of Newport. When you consider that 119 of Newport's remaining 400 eighteenth-century houses are on the Point, this goodly heritage represents a notable concentration in a well-defined area. The Point Association is dedicated to the improvement, protection, enrichment, beautification and restoration of the area. Considering the importance both historically and architecturally of these few acres, and the continuing delight of this lovely harborside region, the Point Association and all of us may well aspire and labor without ceasing to see the Point once more The Court End of Town. . .

(Jan. issue will tell of other houses being improved and restored.)

HISTORIC ZONING:

Several members and officers of the Point Association attended a meeting at the White Horse Tavern on Nov. 17 when The Very Rev. Darby Betts addressed the Zoning Committee of the Preservation Society on the hope for action by the General Assembly in passing an amendment to the State zoning laws enabling municipalities in the State to set up historic zoning. Such an enabling act is, of course, of vital interest to all who realize the importance of preserving the historic treasures of Newport, and should receive the special support of P.A.N.

THE COURT END OF TOWN:

On Dec. 11 Miss Edith Ballinger Price addressed the Quarterly Meeting of the Newport Historical Society on "The Court End of Town", and gave a talk covering many aspects of the Point. Having been asked to speak as a representative of P.A.N., she emphasized the hopes and aims of the Association.

DISPATCH from the WESTERN FRONT:

A heavy City vehicle, in going up on the sidewalk of north Washington St., broke through and left a 4 x 5 foot hole. The break-through was directly over a patch on the seawall, revealing that the patch was only skin-deep - something like a band-aid on a deep wound, and the whole seawall under the sidewalk is honeycombed. However, the patch below the break seems pretty tight, and the fill of pebbles and gravel which was dumped into the cavity is not too likely to be washed away this winter. We are happy to report that a 7th patch is in process of being added, and an 8th and 9th are sketched out, so the FWD is making as much hay as possible while the wintry sun shines, and chilly work it must be!

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