

## **Report from the Friends of Island History**

The Friends of Island History is a consortium of the historical societies, museums, and libraries on MDI. The purpose of the consortium has been to discuss ways for the various organizations to cooperate, especially by sharing resources for cataloging and preserving the collections of its members.

The FOIH officers have now proposed a new consortium, called, for now, the History Trust, and Bill Horner and Tim Garrity wrote an op-ed for the *Mount Desert Islander* that sets out the goals and objectives of the Trust. In twenty-five words or less, they propose to combine the member organizations into a single entity, with one governing board, to house, catalog, and preserve the shared collections in an appropriate facility and to have the ability to seek major grant and philanthropic funding.

While I do support the idea, I don't think BFS would want to be one of the initial full partners. (For one thing, our most important "collections" are the gardens, which aren't transferrable.) Still, I do think it would be advantageous for BFS to be an adjunct member, and therefore I think we should continue to be part of FOIH.

I always enjoy discussions with curators/archivists/librarians, and so I don't mind continuing to be the BFS representative for FOIH/History Trust. However, it's been difficult for me to get to the meetings, and I'd be happy to be replaced by one of you who lives on the Island and is interested.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Knickerbocker

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