

The meeting of the Davis Town Meeting House Society was called to order by President Maryanne Douglas, who opened the meeting at 7:30 PM on Monday at the Pavilion at the Coram Fire Dept.

***Members in Attendance:***

Maryanne Douglas  
Chris Reilley  
Jeff Davis  
Margaret Guardi  
Jean Hartling  
Arline Disanza  
Mary Grace Johnson  
Suzanne Johnson  
Grace D'Alleva  
Steve Lucas

The *Pledge of Allegiance* was recited.

***Approval of Minutes :*** The minutes were emailed to everyone for any corrections. No corrections and no formal approval was given.

***Treasurer's Report***

Chris Reilly emailed the financial statement to everyone.

***Membership Report***

No report

***Historian's Report***

*No report*

***Old Business***

None discussed.

**New Business:**

Presentation on the Preservation of Our Cemeteries:

Our speaker was Zachary Studenroth who gave his Powerpoint program "Using Burying Grounds for Historic Site Interpretation". Mr. Studenroth led a tour of the Davis family cemetery for members prior to the evening's meeting. He recently founded the Burying

Ground Preservation Group ([bgpg.org](http://bgpg.org)). He explained that the term “burying ground” is used for 18<sup>th</sup> century sites, such as the Davis site, and cemeteries were introduced later. The earliest gravestones, brownstones, came from upstate quarries. Rubble stones, or glacial erratics, were also used as they were plentiful on Long Island. Later marble tombstones came from Vermont and Maine. Mr. Studenroth discussed ways volunteers can be trained to properly clean the stones and that power washing is never to be done. He advised that Dawn dishwashing liquid diluted in a spray bottle can be used for cleaning with a brush with plastic not wire bristles. He also explained various ways broken stones can be repaired. He advised us to develop programs involving the burying ground, to tell the stories of the people buried there in order to preserve this historic site.

**Open Discussion: None**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm

Submitted:  
Susanne Johnson  
Vice-President