

The Board of the Litchfield Historical Society met at the Museum February 16, 2017.

*Present:* Mr. Reardon, presiding; *Mmes.* Brickley, Doty, Furniss, Hinkel, Rahilly; *Messers.* LaGattuta, Quay, Roraback, Vermilyea, Wacker; *Absent:* Blazier, Copeland, Macomber, Newton, Sherman; Mrs. Fields, by invitation.

The President called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

The minutes of the January 12, 2017 meeting were approved and accepted as submitted. John LaGattuta was thanked for preparing the minutes in the Secretary's absence.

**Proposed 2017 Budget      Mr. Reardon      [copy attached]**

- In the absence of the Treasurer, the President presented the budget which had been distributed to the Board by email.
- There will be a 1/3 of 1% increase in distribution from the endowment.
- Dues and contributions are set at what was raised last year.
- Service contract costs for computers and data bases will increase.
- There is an approximately \$30,000 increase in salaries across the board, with no employee receiving more than a 3% increase.
- There are now 300 members and last year those giving \$1000 or more doubled.
- Mr. LaGattuta moved to accept the proposed budget for 2017 and Mr. Wacker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Tapping Reeve House Landscape Project      Mr. Reardon**

- The major construction phase of grading, tree removal, soil preparation and orchard preparation will begin soon. The estimate of \$200,000 to \$215,000, with contingencies, includes the full cost of the instruction shed, handicapped accessibility by the shed and a walkway to the garden.
- The open, post and beam shed will have water and electricity and low stone walls for seating.
- 7 apple trees, at \$500 each, have been given. The Litchfield Preservation Trust is planning on making a gift in honor of Chip Spencer. There will also be Chestnut trees planted in the grove next to the Tavino property.

**Director's Report      Mrs. Fields**

- LABA has a project to begin giving "welcome baskets" to new residents. The LHS will include materials and a free one-year membership. Items are being collected at OWL.
- The program on the Electoral College, co-sponsored by the Litchfield LWV, postponed by snow, drew a standing room only audience. Stephen McGrath and John Dasher led the discussion.
- Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, Stephen McGrath will lead the first of a two-part presentation and discussion on the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment.
- Erickson Insurance has given a second-year grant to cover admissions.
- The Board agreed to issue the Annual Report in standard size for \$1,500.

- LHS Archivist Linda Hocking, active in professional archival organizations, is one of 5 experts chosen nationally to meet for 4 days in March 2017 to rewrite a set of principles or rules for archives. Other archivists include those from Harvard and Yale. It is all expenses paid. Mrs. Fields will send out a press release.

#### **Collections Committee**

#### **Mr. LaGattuta**

- The Collections Committee met to update and revise the LHS Collection Policy to include new CT legislation on
- The Collection mission statement was revised to include material central to our mission rather than just Litchfield.
- The proposed new Policy was emailed to the Board prior to the meeting. [Attached]
- Mrs. Hinkel moved to accept the proposed Collection Policy and Mr. Quay seconded the proposal which passed unanimously.
- The vote to acquire the LLS alumni Andrews Diary was done by email. [Attached]
- The Committee distributed information on recommended deaccessioning of various items from the collection. [Attached] Some items require additional research. A motion was made by Mr. Vermilyea to deaccession the melodeon piano and the wood paneling. Seconded by Mrs. Furniss the motion passed and must be voted a 2<sup>nd</sup> time.
- The LHS is finding an increasing number of items through Ebay. The Acquisition Fund, once up to \$70,000, is currently below \$10,000 and needs replenishing.

#### **Education Task Force**

#### **Mr. Vermilyea**

- The Committee and Ms. Zullo and working to interest more schools in our educational programs. Litchfield's 8<sup>th</sup> grade history teacher is very enthusiastic and working with Ms. Zullo to adapt programs to the Common Core requirements. The requirements will soon be required for high schools and at 4:00 PM on March 2<sup>nd</sup> the Committee will meet here with representatives of local public and private secondary schools.
- Next year all freshmen will be required to spend one year working on a "capstone project, doing community work. The LHS would be an ideal place to work.

#### **Nominating Committee**

#### **Mrs. Hinkel**

- The committee members are Mrs. Hinkel, Chair, Mrs. Furniss and Mr. Reardon.
- There will be 2 open slots to fill.
- Mrs. Hinkel will email an updated list of members and their terms.

#### **"Miniature Marvels" Spring Fling Fund Raiser**

#### **Mrs. Furniss**

- The event will be Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 8:00 PM, following the Annual Meeting.
- 21 artists have signed up to date to provide unframed pieces not to exceed 6".
- It will be all "silent auction," with \$50 opening bids and increments of \$25.
- This is our affordable event and will be \$35 or \$40 at the door.
- Please send in any suggestions for artists or for the invitation list.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne T. Brickley, Secretary