

The Board of the Litchfield Historical Society met at the Museum June 8, 2017

Present: Mrs. Hinkel, presiding; *Mmes.* Brickley, Furniss, Honan, Jones, Rahilly; *Messers:* Quay, Roraback, Sherman, Terzian, Vermilyea, Wacker; *ex-officio:* Reardon; *Absent:* Blazier, Budny, Copeland, LaGattuta, Newton. Mrs. Fields, by invitation.

The President called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. The Minutes of the May 11, 2017 meeting were approved and accepted as submitted on a motion by Mrs. Furniss, seconded by Mr. Sherman. The May fund raiser grossed about \$15,000.

Finance Report **Mr. Quay**

The income and expense summary shows revenue over the budget and expenses running below the budget. The Treasurer distributed an update on the Endowment and restricted funds. [attached] June 1st the combined endowment was \$8.25 million, with \$400,000 in restricted funds and \$328,000 in the capital fund. Next month there will be an analysis of the last 10 years' performance.

President's Report **Mrs. Hinkel**

The Task Forces on Membership and Donor Cultivation are up and running. They have had a joint meeting and Membership met a second time. Every quarter the lists are reviewed and renewal letters go out. There are now 6 categories of membership, each with benefits. On July 9th, the Sherman's will hold a cocktail reception for all those who have given \$250 or more in a year. Please invite any potential members you can bring. The mailing will go out June 11th. The Tapping Reeve Landscape Project is ready to start once the rain stops. There will be a celebration of the project with two events in September, a free family day and a fund raiser.

Spring Fund Raiser Event **Mrs. Furniss**

About 200 guests attended the show of works by 65 artists. The gross was \$15,290 and the net should be +/- \$13,500. Mrs, Furniss thanked everyone who helped make the event a success.

Litchfield's 300th **Mrs. Brickley**

- The Board of Selectmen have appointed a Committee for the 300th consisting of: Lynne Brickley and Lee Losee, co-chairs, Gerry Perusse, Treasurer, Bobby D'Andrea, attorney, Lisa Lose

e, Secretary, Cleve Fuessenich and Peter Vermilyea, citizen members, as well as Leo Paul, Ann Coombs and Cathy Fields, *ex-officio*. The rest of this year will be spent reaching out to all community organizations and groups to get feedback on what they would like to see done. The goal is to have the whole town involved in a united way.

Director's Report **Mrs. Fields**

- The Society plans to hire Olivia Delaney, a science at the Renbrook School, as the Education Coordinator for the Tapping Reeve Garden.
- The work on the museum steps and ramp will be done by Burlington in late July.
- The accreditation process is moving forward. The combined staff and board Ethics Policy they requested was distributed. Mrs. Rahilly made a motion to accept the new policy, seconded by Mr. Sherman. It was accepted and will be sent to AAM.

- The new website design is almost ready. It will allow more pictures, a better calendar and be mobile friendly. The board will be given a password.
- The Society has received a \$42,000 grant from the NHPRC to digitize and develop finding aids for the Boardman Collection, which included 120 account books, 1 carton of family letters and 1 carton of bills and receipts – a total of about 45,000 pages. We will hire Marcia Furman to work on the project with funds from the grant. In addition between 25% and 30% of Mrs. Hocking's time will be spent on the project. We were told we had an unusually high score on the application with 9 of 10 readers awarding it above 90%
- Lee Cook has decided to retire from her work in the library. She will continue to volunteer. Marcia Furman will also pick up some of her time.
- Staff members are busy this summer. Mrs. Hocking is doing 3 presentations at the SAA Conference in Portland; Ms. Olver gave a talk on social media for the CT League of Historical Organizations and Mr. DuBois is speaking on the Anson Dickinson Miniatures for the "History Bites" series and again for the Dickinson Family Reunion.
- There was a brief discussion of the future use of the Litchfield Court House.
- On September 24 at 3:00 PM the Livingston-Ripley Waterfowl Sanctuary will co-host a reception and talk by the author of a new book on S. Dillon Ripley here at the Museum
- The Board is asked to think about ideas to increase our campaign to enlarge the endowment. What do we need to do to get major gifts and sponsorships? This will be discussed at future meetings.

New Business

Mrs. Fields

The Long Island Museum would like to borrow the Earl portrait of Mary Floyd Tallmadge and a piece of silver from made by Elias Pellatreau for the Tallmadge family. The loan would run for four months from September through December 2018. The Long Island museum will be responsible for packing, shipping (to our specifications) and insurance.

The motion to approve the loan, made by Mr. Vermilyea and seconded by Mrs. Rahilly, passed.

There being no additional new business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne Brickley. Secretary