

The Board of the Litchfield Historical Society met at the Museum May 11, 2017.

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

The President called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. The Minutes of the March 9, 2017 meeting were approved and accepted on a motion proposed by Mr. Sherman and seconded by Mrs. Rahilly. The Treasurer presented the Income and Expense Summary to date, showing nothing dramatic. No annual appeal letters have been sent yet. Membership needs to be examined. Buildings and grounds maintenance are running \$60,000. Two-thirds of the budget comes from the endowment. Additional funding will be required to raise staff salaries. The report was approved and accepted on a motion by Mr. LaGattuta, seconded by Mr. Sherman.

**President's Report** Mrs. Hinkel

- A Board contact list, schedule of 2017 meetings and a list of the Task Forces were distributed.
- A Donor update list will be provided to Board members to check and write letters.
- There will be a Donor cocktail party at the Sherman's home, from 5:00 to 7:00 PM, Sunday, July 9<sup>th</sup>. Board members are asked to bring potential members as guests.
- There will be a celebration at the Tapping Reeve House on either September 17<sup>th</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup>.
- The membership is being reviewed.
- Following the meeting tonight, there is a reception upstairs, "Growing Up in Litchfield."

**Director's Report** Mrs. Fields

- The TR Landscape project is set to begin. Mr. Rod Oneglia, Mr. Reardon and Mrs. Fields walked the property and the lines are flagged. The Children's Garden and shed areas will be cleared of underbrush, saving the large trees.
- It was suggested to have a groundbreaking ceremony and invite all the neighbors.
- The sidewalks at the East St. and South St. sides of the museum need to be redone. The Borough Burgesses will pay ½ of the \$15,595.00 cost. LHS pay for gravel driveway, granite steps, and railings from the Seherr-Thoss Foundation capital project grant. Motion, made by Mr. LaGattuta, seconded by Dr. Sherman, passed.
- The Litchfield Fire Marshall visited the Museum and TR House for an inspection. He noted the needed repairs for the museum outdoor steps. The TR House is not in compliance with current codes and needs work including a fire-door to the apartment and railings at the steps out. Guy Livosi will do the work.
- The new ceiling halogen track lights are up in the TR House. They were paid for by the Seherr-Thoss Foundation capital projects grant.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students, led by teacher Joanna Moore, will give a presentation of their work here at the Museum for family and friends on June 20<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 to 7:00 PM. The Board is encouraged to attend and no RSVP is needed.
- The Litchfield Land Trust is donating all their records to the LHS Archives. There will be a reception to formally accept the records at 5:30 PM on Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup>.
- The Director recently learned that all the existing museum policies, including collections, ethics and strategic planning, including a timeline and task forces needed to be updated for the initial report. The changes will be brought to the Board for approval. The accreditation visiting committee will come for the site visit in August.
- The preliminary results of the January survey of the membership are in. We received the "highest score ever" rating the friendliness and helpfulness of the staff. The full results will be presented at a future meeting.

- A “Digitization Day” will be held from 1:00 to 5:00 PM, Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>.
- The Greater Litchfield Preservation Trust has made a \$20,000 gift in memory of Chip Spencer for a hardwood grove at the TR site. The gift will be highlighted at the ground breaking event.

**Spring Fund Raiser** Mrs. Furniss

- Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM the Miniatures art show party will be held at the museum.
- 65 artists are participating. There will be only silent bidding, starting at \$50 in \$10 increments. About 100 guests are expected. The Board members were asked to sign up for providing food and drink.

**Collections** Mr. LaGattuta

- The Marrin family donated a collection of Oswald Marrin’s WWII items.
- The collections policy that was distributed prior to the board meeting has a few minor revisions noted in yellow. A motion to accept the revisions, made by Mr. Newton and seconded by Mr. Vermilyea, passed.

**Litchfield’s 300<sup>th</sup> 2019** Mrs. Brickley

- The Litchfield Board of Selectmen have appointed Mrs. Brickley and Lee Losee co-chairs of the 300<sup>th</sup> Committee. Other members are Bobby D’Andrea, Gerry Perusse, Lisa Losee, Cleve Fuessenich and Peter Vermilyea. Leo Paul, Ann Combs and Cathy Fields are ex-officio members. The rest of this year will be spent meeting with all the organizations in Litchfield to find out how they would like to participate. Plans to date are to have a year-long series of events, building on regular scheduled annual events.

**New Business** Mrs. Fields

- Mrs. Fields will spend a day meeting for the Grant Panel of the Greater Hartford Arts Council.
- Megan Olver has been elected to the Board of the CT League of Historic Organizations.
- Kate Zullo has been named a member of the Litchfield Main Street Association formed to promote local businesses on all of Route 201 in town. Jonathan Wilson is the chairman.
- At 6:00 PM on Sunday Cathy and Alex will appear on Channel 3 on “20 Towns in 20 Days.” Channel 3 gives \$1,000 to a non-profit in each town in which they film. They gave \$1,000 to the Litchfield Community Center.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne T. Brickley, Secretary