

Minutes of the October 12, 2017 Meeting of the Board of the Litchfield Historical Society

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

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

Linda Hocking and Marsha Furman presented a power point, "Fresh and Fashionable Goods," outlining their work on the Elijah Boardman Collection of 97 account books and 20 ledgers from his dry goods store in New Milford and 4 cartons of bills, receipts and Boardman family papers. Every page is being photographed in high resolution digital archive tiffs with a Cannon 70D camera bought with a NEH grant. A finding aid for our collection will be done first and later will have links to Boardman materials in numerous other collections. The final digitized collection and finding aid will be on the CT Digital Archive.

A motion was made by Mr. Sherman to approve and accept the minutes of the September 14, 2007 meeting with corrections. Mrs. Rahilly seconded the motion which carried.

Financial Report

Mr. Quay

- Dues and contributions are down only because of a timing issue.
- Investment income reflects a good stock market with an 8% return.
- The endowment is doing very well.
- The Bar B Que fund raiser was attended by 149 people, putting us \$6,000 over the fund raising goal.
- The Society will write off \$66,000 of the cost of the Litchfield book, of which 2,800 were bought and some 1,000 sold to date. The books will now sell for \$50.

President's Report

Mrs. Hinkel

- The Governance Committee will meet on November 2nd, with Mrs. Honan as chair and Mr. Terzian as a member.
- The Donor Cultivation Committee will meet in the next few months.
- Mrs. Fields and Ms. Olver are looking into a Junior Membership campaign as a way to involve parents of local students.
- The new website will be up in the 1st quarter of 2018.

Fund Raiser

Mrs. Furniss

- The Bar B Que made a net profit of \$13,000 and was a great success.

Litchfield Law School Committee

Mr. Roraback

- The committee - Mr. Newton, Mr. Quay, Mr. Wacker, Mr. Roraback, Mr. Reardon, Anne Dranginis, Tino West, Bill Homan and Mrs. Fields - is meeting monthly on the last Thursday of the month at 8:00 AM @thecorner. The next meeting is October 26th and anyone interested is welcome to attend.

Collections**Mrs. Fields for Mr. Lagattuta**

- The Society has been offered a collection of law student William Holabird's papers. [see attached handout] Mrs. Hocking reviewed the papers and recommends purchase. The Director checked the price with the Yale Law School librarian who thought it fair. Mrs. Blazier made a motion to purchase the Holabird papers for \$5,000 from the Preservation fund, seconded by Mr. Quay. The motion carried.

Director's Report**Mrs. Fields**

- The Director received notice today just before the meeting that we passed our Accreditation.
- There have been increasing requests to use the Society buildings after hours. It would require staff to be there. Hourly staff are able to be on hand, but would need to be paid. We have no policy now and need to develop one.
- A Seherr-Thoss Foundation capital grant application has been submitted for funds to renovate the "Spencer Gallery" by removing the permanent walls and carpet and putting in a flexible wall system.
- The Orchard Planting at the Reeve property will be held at 10:00 AM, Saturday the 21st, with Sunday at 2:00 PM as the rain date. All who have given trees are invited. Peter Montgomery, the "Apple Man," will be there. The chestnut grove will be planted in the spring.
- The Regina Mason program will be held February 4th. The staff is looking into the new space at Forman as a site.

Collections Update**Mrs. Fields**

- The miniature portrait of a young Sarah Pierce was shown. It has been given by a descendant of the Loring family from the Boston area. He will pay for its conservation.
- A Female Academy needlework back from conservation was shown.
- A chair from the Courthouse, given to the Society, was shown. A small table and miscellaneous other items were received from the Courthouse.

There being no additional new or old business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne Brickley, Secretary