

## Minutes of the September 14, 2017 Meeting of the Board of the Litchfield Historical Society

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

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

There was a change in the order of the agenda and the minutes of the July 13, 2017 meeting were approved and accepted with one spelling error corrected.

### **Financial Report**                      **Mr. Quay**

- The budget is in good shape to date
- Event income is ahead of budget with the fall fundraiser making +/- \$17,000
- The accreditation process revealed we need a larger base of membership both local and broader

### **President's Report**                      **Mrs. Hinkel**

- The Agenda and other items for the Board will continue to use the Mission Statement so that we all know it, use it and support it

### **Staff Report on Educational Activities**                      **Ms. Zullo, curator of education**

Joann Moore, librarian and Media Coordinator at Litchfield Middle School has worked with the staff to develop elementary grade student programs

1. Second graders = get to know the museum and feel welcomed through colonial games, hands-on activities and use of the LLS for early American school programs
  2. Third graders = learn what an historian does through research projects, walking tours of North and South Streets, Liggett floor map activities and in-school activities. In October they will do a research project using primary and secondary sources.
  3. In February they will do a project on Benjamin Tallmadge with a June public presentation
  4. In May 2018, 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will begin a new curriculum on soil and plant life in the children's garden at the TR House. There will be a "Hoe Down" play for music class in the garden and they will make plant labels as an art project.
- Eighth Graders will do the program introduced last year on Federalists and Anti-Federalists, the development of the political party system and freedom of the press.
  - The Litchfield Intermediate School librarian will work with the staff to develop programs
  - Board members and Ms. Zullo discussed increased communications with families with ideas including free junior memberships at no cost, increased emails to families and publicity on the use of the children's garden.

### **President's Report continued**                      **Ms. Hinkel**

- There will be a password-protected Board section of the new website to be introduced in 2018
- The CT Community Foundation's Ann Green has suggested we plan a half-day Board Self-Assessment discussion for early next year.
- The Board was asked to vote to endorse in principle the 7 Core Values of the History Relevancy Campaign, which they had received by email, describing well what we do and why we do it. Mr. LaGattuta made the proposal, seconded by Mr. Vermilyea, which passed.

### **Task Force and Committee Reports**

- **Fund Raiser Bar B Que on Sunday at the TR House**                      **Mrs. Furniss**  
+/- 125 guests are expected. We need help 2:00 PM set up and clean up after event. The Mt. Vernon Package will be auctioned and two garden benches will be on sale in a silent auction.

Money will be asked for the gate or arbor for the garden. The Switch Factory will play.  
Litchfield Distillery will offer a “signature” drink. Mrs. Jones has made all the table runners.

- **Litchfield 300<sup>th</sup> Committee**

**Mrs. Brickley**

Planning is continuing for year-long events in 2019

- **Collections Committee**

**Mr. LaGattuta**

A handout of accessions from 7/13 2017 to 9/14/2017 was distributed [attached]

A suggestion was made that the Society give one-year free memberships to donors

**Director’s Report**

**Ms. Fields**

- The NPARC-funded project to digitize the Boardman Collection began in September  
Marsha Furman is working full-time for a year doing photos of each page in 118 account books, some 82,000 pp.  
Ms. Hocking will produce the finding aid to the collection.  
A new camera and other equipment is paid for by the grant.  
Lee Cook will also work on the project one day a week.
- The stone wall at the TR Landscape Project is completed, the floor of the pavilion is in and the children’s garden is laid out. The apple orchard should go in soon. Victoria Sansing introduced us to a retired Yale Experimental Agriculture Station faculty member who spent 30 years developing disease-resistant, edible-nut chestnut trees. We will plant a grove of baby trees, under planted with pumpkins. This will be the Grove in honor of Chip Spencer, given by the Greater Litchfield Preservation Trust,
- The Accreditation visiting committee told us we are an “extraordinary” organization, but need a larger base of membership and support. the final report and decision will come in November.
- The Lecture by the Author of the new biography of Dillon Ripley, co-sponsored with the Ripley-Livingston Waterfowl Sanctuary, will be held September 24<sup>th</sup>, with a capacity of 85 and a reception following at the Museum.
- On Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Regina Mason, descendant of William Grimes, an escaped slave who lived in Litchfield and worked for LLS students, will show her new film on Grimes and discuss the project
- There being no old or new business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lynne T. Brickley, Secretary