

Minutes of the June 14, 2018 Meeting of the Board of the Litchfield Historical Society

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

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

Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Sherman and seconded by Mrs. Jones to approve and accept the minutes of the May 10, 2018 meeting. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

In the absence of the Treasurer Mrs. Hinkel and Mrs. Fields presented the Income and Expense Report. [attached] Most items are on budget. Most annual fund gifts come later in the year. There was no spring fund raiser. Expenses are in line.

President's Report

All is busy and going well. The "weeding and wine" last week at the TR garden went well and there will be another next Thursday. Joanne Moore had the 3rd graders do their program on Benjamin Tallmadge which had an audience of about 60. Tino West will provide a party at his house as an item in the auction at the fall fundraiser. A letter is being drafted to send to our higher donors to advise them of what is available for them at the Society.

Events

Mrs. Furniss

The fall fundraiser will be held on Saturday, September 15th, from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. The committee has had its first meeting. A save the date notice will be sent out soon. The silent auction items will be in tents. It was suggested Mr. Fields do a bluebird box workshop.

Governance

Mrs. Honan

There will be two openings for Board members next spring and candidates are being considered.

Sponsorships

Mr. Terzian

Erickson Insurance has renewed their \$5000 sponsorship for free admission. Litchfield Bancorp has pledged \$2500 to sponsor our free educational programs for Litchfield students. We have approached Torrington Savings bank for a major sponsorship for the fall fundraiser. The committee will meet to discuss approaches to other local businesses.

Litchfield Law School Task Force

Mrs. Fields, for Mr. Roraback

The Task force has been meeting regularly. Today Mrs. Fields gave a talk on the LLS in Hartford at the Connecticut Judges Institute. On June 28th the CT Bar Foundation will hold a roundtable discussion on legal education with cocktails at the Reeve Meadow and dinner at the museum. Law Librarians from Columbia and Yale and the Deans of the UConn and Quinnipiac Law Schools will participate. The Task Force is working on a guidebook to the LLS. They hope to raise money for its design through sponsorships and underwriting from law firms. A faculty

member of the New England School of Law summers in Cornwall and is doing research on the LLS.

Membership

Mrs. Blazier

Committee members Mrs. Budney, co-chair, Mrs. Hinkel, Mrs. Rahilly and Mr. Quay had their first meeting and discussed differences between membership and donors. They are merging several lists of lapsed members for a mailing. They discussed benefits of membership now that admission is free for all. Memberships currently raise between \$27,000 and \$30,000 per year and \$65,000 is given to the Annual Fund. Eleven donors give \$10,000 or more. We now offer North American Reciprocal Museums (NARM), for memberships at 125.00 and above. NARM provides free admission to close to 1000 museums around the country.

Collections

Mrs. Jones

Mrs. Jones presented a report on new acquisitions to the collections. Work continues on the Elijah Boardman Papers and 92 of the 119 account records are digitized. The family papers are also being done. Linda Hocking posts items of interest she finds on eboardman.tumblr.com

Staff Appreciation Party

The 1st Annual Staff Appreciation Party Luncheon will be given by the Board on Tuesday, June 26th, from noon to 1:00 PM at Mrs. Furniss' house. Please RSVP to Mrs. Furniss

Director's Report

Mrs. Fields

TR Meadow: Mason Mat Wheeler is doing many projects at the TR Meadow including landscaping and planting. He will offer a talk of stone walls in the fall and would like to organize a benefit plant sale next spring. Olivia Delaney the garden educator, started this week and today held a "Crafternoon" at the garden. This is the first of many programs that will be offered in the garden this summer. On Saturday, June 16th, at 10:00 AM, Peter Montgomery will demonstrate how to prune apple trees.

Regina Mason: On September 15-16, William Grimes will be inducted into the CT Freedom Trail. On Monday some of the family will come here for walking tours and other activities.

Staffing: Today and tomorrow 100 5th grade students a day from Harwinton-Burlington school will be here for a tour and lunch at the TR property. Increasingly schools, senior centers and organizations are calling for tours and programs. We need also help out with many other jobs wherever needed. Harwinton paid \$2,000 for the 200 students. A new staff person would cost between \$35,000 and \$40,000 a year. The Director will explore possible ways or raising the money needed. This subject merits a longer discussion by the Board.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne Brickley