

## **Minutes of the October 4, 2018 Meeting of the Board of the Litchfield Historical Society**

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

The President called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM.

### **Minutes**

Mrs. Jones pointed out a typo in the September minutes. As last month's minutes were not visible on the portal by all members, a few minutes were taken to review them. Mr. Sherman made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2018 meeting, which Mrs. Blazier seconded. The motion passed.

### **Announcements**

Mrs. Hinkel reported that Mr. Copeland and Mr. Vermilyea will be leaving the board in April and that Paul McLaughlin has agreed to be nominated for a seat on the board.

Mrs. Hinkel announced that Mrs. Brickley will not be able to serve as secretary while she is recovering, and that Mr. Vermilyea will serve as secretary pro tem.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Mr. Quay presented the Income and Expense Report, which is available on the Board portal. Due to the success of the Fall fundraiser, revenue is greater than expected and expenses are less than what was budgeted. We are in good shape.

### **President's Report**

Mrs. Hinkel thanked those Board members who attended the meeting of the Connecticut Historical Society trustees.

Mrs. Hinkel and Mrs. Fields will attend the Museum Trustee Association's Workshop and Forum on October 25th and 26th at the Wadsworth Atheneum and the Connecticut Historical Society. The session on Friday the 26th is open to Board members.

Mrs. Hinkel, Mrs. Furniss and Mrs. Fields met to wrap up the fundraiser and get out thank you notes. If any Board members know of anyone who was left out, please let Mrs. Hinkel know. Mrs. Hinkel expressed her thanks to Mrs. Furniss, the event committee, Mrs. Fields and the staff for all their work on the fundraiser.

### **Events Committee**

#### **Mrs. Furniss**

Mrs. Furniss expressed her thanks to everyone who pitched in at the fundraiser. It was great exposure to the meadow for those who had not been there. The amount in the budget line is not yet final as money is still coming in from the auction items. There are also still tickets available for the February 23rd event at the Tallmadge House.

The next fall fundraiser will take place on September 14th, 2019.

The spring art fundraiser will take place on May 18th, 2019. The theme will be “What you like about Litchfield?”

**Collections Committee                      Mrs. Jones**

Mrs. Jones asked for a motion to approve the recommendations for deaccessioning. Mrs. Honan made a motion, which Mrs. Furniss seconded. The motion was approved. A second vote on this recommendation will be held at next month’s meeting.

**Law School Committee                      Mr. Roraback**

The guidebook is proceeding and will be beautiful. It is hoped that the book will be available for the April opening.

**Meadow Committee                      Mrs. Honan**

An application is being completed for the Tapping Reeve Meadow to be a part of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. This requires a site assessment, an environmental plan design and implementation, a request for certification as a sanctuary, and a site visit. This will take place over a three-year period. Participation in this program will help engage students, sustainability, wildlife, and plants through the Education Program, contribute to the conservation of the meadow, and gain national recognition for the meadow.

**Director’s Report                      Mrs. Fields**

The “Fresh and Fashionable Goods” tumblr page was featured on a Facebook post from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

Leith Johnson has been hired as a part-time archivist through December. He recently retired from the Wesleyan University library.

An application is being completed for the Seherr-Thoss Foundation to finish several areas of the Tapping Reeve Meadow.

The Antiques Dealers of America Association show will be held at the Hartford Armory on October 21st and 22nd. Our display will feature works by Ralph Earl and Ammi Philipps and a Litchfield County chest on chest. Ten museums will be featured.

The New England Museum Association’s annual conference will be in Stamford on November 7, 8 and 9. Linda Hocking and Megan Olver Siok will be presenting and the entire staff will attend for some of the conference.

**Old Business**

**New Business**

Mr. Roraback will meet with the Membership Committee to work on connecting people with the Historical Society in a way that doesn't involve asking for money. Mr. Roraback's idea, "Tomorrow's History Today", would bestow honorary membership for a year on individuals who have made significant contributions to the community. A proposal will be brought to the board for the November meeting.

Trick or Treating will take place at the Law School. Jay Fields will be there in a penguin costume. A haunted house is being considered for next year.

A lantern walking tour of Litchfield's architecture followed by cookies and cider will be held at Christmas time.

A community discussion on immigration history in Litchfield will be held on November 4th.

Mrs. Blazier requested that board members receive talking points on why people should become members of the Historical Society.

Mr. Vermilyea reported on the work of the town's 300th anniversary committee. The committee's primary function is to coordinate events being put on by organizations and groups, and to piggyback 300th anniversary events on to existing events like the Memorial Day parade and the road race. If anyone knows of organizations planning events, they should contact Jon Tarrant, the committee's co-chair.

Respectfully submitted,  
Peter Vermilyea