



MINUTES

Annual Meeting

Thursday, August 24, 2023

Mission Statement:

We make Castine history accessible, relevant, and inspiring to all.

Agenda:

- Welcome and approval of the 2022 annual meeting minutes – Susan Hatch
- Snap Shot of 2022-2023 Activity
 - Finance Committee report – John Mitchell
 - Executive Director's report – Lisa Simpson Lutts
- Recognition of retiring board members – Susan Hatch
- Vote by CHS membership for Board of Directors slate – Ellen Benjamin
- Introduction of slate of new officers for Board of Directors – Ellen Benjamin
- Program: Highlights of what's new to the CHS permanent collection – Jules Thomson and Lisa Simpson Lutts

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President Susan Hatch convened the meeting at 4:02 and provided brief introductory remarks. This meeting will be available on our YouTube channel.

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President Hatch then called for any issues with the 2022 minutes for the annual meeting. Hearing none, a motion was made by Marc Pelletier and seconded by Brooke Tenney to accept the minutes. The 2022 minutes were approved as voted by the membership.

Finance Committee report:

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Treasurer John Mitchell reported that 2022 saw the Covid restrictions lifted, and the Abbott School museum returning to normal hours. The House & Garden Tour was extremely successful and largely responsible for the positive net operating income for the 2022 year.

Bangor Savings Bank Wealth Management, along with Finance Committee oversight, continues to manage the Historical Society's endowment funds. The year 2022 was a bad year for the endowment funds, but the management of the funds remained within the benchmarks established by the Historical Society's updated Investment Policy Statement.

The endowment funds have recovered almost all their lost value at this point in 2023. In addition, the net general operating income for the first 7 months of 2023 is almost double compared to the same period in 2022. General operating expenses this year are also in line with the budgeted amounts.

Thanks to the careful monitoring by the staff and the Finance Committee overseeing the general operating budget and the oversight of Bangor Savings Wealth Management with the endowment funds, the Historical Society's overall financial picture is healthy.

Executive Director's report:

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Lisa Simpson Lutts explained that the Castine Historical Society has been involved in many exciting projects since our last meeting. In May, CHS adopted a new three-year Strategic Plan with the assistance of Starboard Leadership in Bangor. The plan will be a guide for annual work plans. As part of the process, the board and staff created a new mission and vision statement.

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Mission: We make Castine history accessible, relevant, and inspiring to all.

Vision Statement: The Castine Historical Society cultivates curiosity about our past to foster a more inclusive, empathetic, and informed society. Inside and outside our walls, we build relationships among individuals, organizations, and the community to enhance understanding of our collective experiences.

CHS has accomplished a number of large-scale and very visible projects related to education, collections, exhibitions, and building preservation. While the staff has been involved with all the projects, nothing could be accomplished without the CHS volunteers whether board members, committee members, docents, walking tour guides, or general volunteers. Director Lutts thanked everyone who gave their time and talents to make CHS the dynamic institution it is today.

For many years, a goal of CHS was to get the permanent collection up online so anyone can view the items. This is especially important for researchers from around the country who will be able

to review the collection before setting up research appointments. Collections Manager, Jules Thomson, has completed this project this year.

The Education Committee worked throughout the year on developing a Castine Occupation Curriculum which debuted this spring. Committee members researched approximately 15 common occupations and residents in each occupation that were found in Castine in the late 18th and 19th centuries. All 3rd and 4th graders were provided with occupation summaries, biographies, and any available images. Two walking tours were given to show the students where these men and women lived and worked. Each child chose a profession and person and wrote and illustrated their own biographies which were presented at the end of the class.

“Hidden Legacies: Uncovering the History of African Americans in Castine”, a series of lectures and a walking tour, was made possible through a grant from the Maine Humanities Council. The project runs from April through October.

Exhibits are an important part of CHS educational outreach. This year’s exhibit, a refreshed version of the Clark Fitz-Gerald exhibition, includes 20 new sculptures. In addition, the Clark Fitz-Gerald Sculpture Trail Map was created with a brochure, online site, and an interpretative panel in the exhibit. Attendance at the exhibit has been excellent.

The Exhibits Committee has been hard at work on next year’s exhibit, tentatively called “The History of Castine in 30 Objects”, which will tell the stories of Castine through objects in our permanent collection that have never been on exhibit.

CHS is in the early stages of the Abbott School Renovation Project. The goal is to renovate and make accessible the second floor of the Abbott School building and to install a permanent exhibit on the history of Castine. A series of stakeholder meetings have been held in the community to garner ideas of what should be included, what technologies might be used, and to build excitement about the project.

This summer the Grindle House repainting project began with two sides of the building completed. The remaining two sides will be painted in 2024.

The director went on to thank the hard-working staff of CHS; Mary Durost the office manager, Jules Thomson the Collections manager and Blair Taylor, Exhibits Coordinator. She also thanked the members for their continued support through good wishes, attendance at exhibits and events, and financial support.

Recognition of retiring Board members:

Board President Susie Hatch recognized the two retiring board members for their service. Kelly Gualtieri has served on the Education Committee for 3 years and played an important part in the development of the Castine Occupations Curriculum at the Adams School. She has also been helpful as CHS continued to develop a relationship with Maine Maritime Academy. Lisa

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Haugen has been on the board for 6 years and, as Chair of the Development Committee, has been instrumental in growing and diversifying all aspects of CHS’s fundraising endeavors.

Vote by CHS membership for Board of Directors slate:

Ellie Benjamin, Chair of the Governance Committee, introduced the new Board of Directors slate: Steven Tenney and Dabney McKenzie have been nominated. Ellie asked for a motion to be made by the membership to accept and second this slate. The motion was made by Marc Pelletier and seconded by John Mitchell. There was no further discussion, and a vote from the membership was called. The membership unanimously elected the slate for a 3-year term.

Two Board members, Marc Pelletier and John Mitchell, have agreed to serve a second term. Ellie asked for a motion to be made by the membership to accept and second this slate. The motion was made by Brooke Tenney and seconded by Karen Lyons. There was no further discussion and a vote from the membership was called. The membership unanimously elected Marc and John to a second term.

Ellie Benjamin announced the following slate for officers for 2023-2024: Susie Hatch, President; Howard Lowell, Vice President; Brooke Tenney, Secretary; and John Mitchell, Treasurer. As per the Bylaws, the officer slate will be voted on by the Board of Directors. This vote will occur via email.

The business meeting closed and was followed by a presentation by Executive Director Lisa Simpson Lutts and Collections Manager Jules Thomson highlighting new acquisitions to the CHS permanent collection.

Election of Officers: In a separate meeting as required by the CHS Bylaws, on a motion made by Brittany Goetting and seconded by Mary Dearborn, the Board voted unanimously by email to elect the following officers for 2023-2024. Susie Hatch, President; Howard Lowell, Vice President; Brooke Tenney, Secretary; and John Mitchell, Treasurer.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Durost
Office Manager

Finance Committee report — John Mitchell

Executive Director’s report — Lisa Simpson Lutts

Recognition of retiring board members — Susan Hatch

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