

MINUTES
Castine Historical Society Board Meeting
Thursday, August 22, 2019
4:00 PM Unitarian Universalist Meeting House

Mission Statement:

We seek to invigorate our community through collaborative exploration and stewardship of our region's rich history, engaging residents and visitors of all ages in Castine's extraordinary past and, through it, that of New England and North America.

Board Members Present: Alice Alston, Ellie Benjamin, Susan Hatch, Lisa Haugen, Jack Macdonald, Marcia Mason, Jill Schoof, Brooke Tenney, Stefanie Scheer Young

Honorary Board Members Present: David Adams, Jim Day, Sally Foote, John Parish

Not in Attendance: Bill Buchanan, George Hatch, Roger Moss

Via Teleconference: None

Staff Present: Angela Bonacasa, Paige Lilly, Lisa Lutts

General Attendance: 56

Votes Taken: Approval of 2018 Minutes (Approved), Addition of New Board Members (Approved)

Minutes Taken By: Angela Bonacasa

Meeting Called to Order: 4:03 PM

Board President Marcia Mason welcomed all to the meeting.

Approve 2018 Annual Meeting minutes.

Motion: John Parish

Second: Ruth Scheer

Result: Approved by unanimous verbal vote

Highlights of Past Year

Marcia thanked all the volunteers for all they do to keep things running smoothly.

Finance Committee:

Finance Committee Chair and Board Treasurer Susie Hatch gave an overview of the 2018 expenses, indicating that the Society was able to end 2018 under budget. Susie thanked the finance committee for all their work. She gave an overview of Grindle House balances and investments and reiterated that memberships and Annual Appeal donations are really what make everything possible.

Exhibits:

Chair Brooke Tenney thanked the staff for all their work on the *Risky Business* exhibit. It has been well received and positively reviewed by members and visitors alike.

Collections:

Curator Paige Lilly gave the committee report for Chair Roger Moss, who was not in attendance. She indicated that it is a very active and intellectually curious committee that provides staff with guidance regarding many aspects of collections.

Buildings and Grounds:

Chair Marcia Mason indicated that work has continued on projects such as the removal of third floor items, and the painting of Abbott School through a generous grant. The work was finally completed in July and August.

Marketing/Public Relations:

Chair Stefanie Scheer Young outlined ongoing work by the Marketing/PR committee, including a revision of *The Castine Visitor*, and the creation of our new annual report. Online calendars, chambers of commerce, and the website continue to be the driving forces behind our marketing efforts.

Docents:

Docent Coordinator Alice Alston indicated that more than 40 docents have volunteered their time this season. The exhibits are open 7 days per week, and all shifts are covered by volunteers. Between the record numbers of visitors, two additional book discussions, and steady sales at the gift shop all summer, the coverage is very appreciated. The staff has also provided more orientation sessions over the summer to help docents who join the team later in the summer.

Development:

Chair Lisa Haugen shared some of the new development events over the last year, including our first event in the fall, a holiday pop up shop on main street, and the addition of a business membership level. The recent fundraiser with the Calvineers has been a highlight of the year. The 2020 season promises to be busy, with work already beginning on the 2020 House and Garden Tour. Lisa thanked the committee for all their work.

Executive Director:

Executive Director Lisa Simpson Lutts gave an overview of the roles and responsibilities of each of the staff members, and the numerous tasks that they handle. She then outlined the creation of the Virtual Tour, and the success of this collaboration between the major organizations in town.

Governance:

Chair George Hatch was not in attendance, so Marcia Mason read his review to the membership. It was indicated that bylaw updates to include the addition of the Executive Director role and the ongoing goal of bringing new people and perspective to the board have been a major part of the committee's job over the last year.

Three individuals were also presented to the membership as potential additions to the Board of Directors:

Richard M. Ames
Mary Dearborn
Howard Lowell

Motion: Add Richard M. Ames, Mary Dearborn, and Howard Lowell to the Castine Historical Society Board of Directors.

Motion: David Bicks

Second: Lisa Haugen

Result: Approved by unanimous verbal vote

In a separate vote not open to the membership at large, the Castine Historical Society Board of Directors voted to approve the following slate of officers for 2019-2020:

President: Ellie Benjamin

Vice President: George Hatch

Secretary: Jill Schoof

Treasurer: Susan Hatch

Motion: Brooke Tenney

Second: Lisa Haugen

Result: Approved by Unanimous Verbal Vote

Brooke Tenney gave a thank you to the three board members leaving the board and described their contributions to the organization. Members leaving board are:

Marcia Mason

Roger Moss

Stefanie Scheer Young

Adjourn Member Meeting: 4:31 PM