

Governance Committee

The Governance Committee reviews the Historical Society's bylaws, policies, and procedures, proposing updates as needed. It also recommends candidates for election to the Board, monitors implementation of the strategic plan and helps evaluate the performance of the board and the Executive Director.

Members

Ellen Benjamin

Mary Dearborn

George Hatch, Chair

Susan Hatch

Howard Lowell

Lisa Simpson Lutts, staff

Since our last annual meeting, the Governance Committee has helped the board formulate a whistleblower policy, update the Historical Society's disaster plan, identify director and honorary director candidates and set policy and planning priorities for the coming year.

The committee's recruitment of new board candidates has produced the three-director slate on the agenda of this month's meeting: Roberta Boczkiewicz, Karen Lyons and Brooke Tenney. Biographies of Roberta, Karen and Brooke have been posted on the CHS website.

The committee also has proposed that the board recognize two of its former members, Marcia Mason and Jack Macdonald, as honorary directors. In reviewing our criteria for honorary directors last year, we agreed the title should be conferred sparingly to honor those who have performed extraordinary service to the organization and, through it, to Castine. Jack and Marcia certainly fit that bill.

Marcia, a director from 2007 to 2019, served as president from 2011 to 2013, vice president in 2016 and president again from 2017 to 2019. Among her many accomplishments was her co-chairmanship of the committee that oversaw the restoration and expansion of the Grindle House. The project combined exemplary historical preservation with impressive utility, winning the 2017 Maine Preservation Honor Award while creating CHS staff offices, a reading room and a collections storage facility that has become a valuable resource for the town.

Jack, a director from 2008 to 2020, was vice president in 2012 and president from 2013 to 2015. As president he also helped propel restoration of the Grindle House, and he led the Historical Society in co-hosting the widely hailed—and widely attended—2015 visit to Castine of the frigate *Hermione*. In tackling these and other initiatives, Jack and Marcia proved themselves to be gifted consensus builders, contributing to a redoubling of CHS efforts in recent years to promote collaborative community exploration and stewardship of Castine history.

Governance Committee work on the Historical Society's first formal whistleblower policy began in 2020, with the measure being approved by the board in May of this year. The committee also engaged with the full board to update the organization's Disaster Plan, a process that included a tabletop exercise with directors and staff to weigh emergency contingencies.

Looking ahead, the committee began discussing the development of a personnel policy, an update of the strategic plan and a board self-assessment, all of which it hopes to explore with the full board in the coming year.

Deep thanks to Ellie, Howard, Lisa, Mary and Susie for your contributions to this work, none of which would have happened without the ideas, energy and care that each of you brought to our discussions.

Respectfully,

George Hatch