



MINUTES

Annual Meeting

Thursday, August 22, 2024

Mission Statement:

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

Agenda:

- Welcome and approval of the 2023 annual meeting minutes – Susan Hatch
 - Snapshot of 2023-2024 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
 - Vote by Board of Directors on officer slate – Ellen Benjamin
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President Susan Hatch convened the meeting at 4:08 and provided brief introductory remarks. This meeting will be available on our YouTube channel.

President Hatch then called for any issues with the 2023 minutes for the annual meeting. Hearing none, a motion was made by Marc Pelletier and seconded by Jeb Baker to accept the minutes. The 2023 minutes were approved as voted by the membership.

Finance Committee report:

Treasurer John Mitchell reported that CHS is doing very well financially. Total income for 2023 was \$60,000 over the budgeted amount. Total expenses were \$10,000 above the budgeted amount. Thus, the net operating income was approximately \$32,000. This was \$50,000 over the budget deficit budgeted for the previous year. He credited the great work of Executive Director Lisa Lutts and the CHS staff.

Bangor Saving Bank Wealth Management, along with Finance Committee oversight, continues to manage the Historical Society's endowment funds. The last year saw a 7.6% increase in the market value of the endowment. For the first half of 2024, our income is ahead of last year and our expenses are below last year's. Currently, our net operating income is up by 30%.

John is confident that the overall financial picture for CHS is very healthy. The Finance Committee will continue to monitor the budget and Bangor Savings Wealth Management will continue to monitor the endowment fund.

Executive Director's report:

Director Lisa Simpson Lutts gave an update on accomplishments since the last meeting. She reminded members that the Annual Report is sent to them every January.

Castine Historical Society has been involved in many exciting projects in the past year, including our current museum exhibit, "A History of Castine in 40 Objects". The idea came from work being done to organize and catalog the CHS collection. The process began with choosing the objects. They needed to be visually appealing with a good story relating to the history of Castine. Volunteers from the committee decided which objects to show and how they fit into the exhibit. They then did research, and from this material, Lisa Simpson Lutts wrote the exhibit labels. After much editing, the exhibit was ready to be installed by the committee.

Lisa went on to thank the committee: Chair Brooke Tenney, Mike Boucher, Don Tenney, Marcia Mason, Susie Hatch, and Penny Carlhian. She gave a special shout out to Marc Pelletier for all his work constructing pedestals and platforms and solving any problems encountered during installation.

Volunteer Penny Carlhian has been working on the permanent collection, supervised by Collections Manager, Jules Thomson. Penny has taken photos and measurements of each object in the collection and created a spreadsheet. Jules has been uploading the information to

our Collections Database. Eventually, this information about the object collection will be accessible on our collection database on the website. This will help us continue to meet our goal to improve accessibility of the CHS collection by the public.

CHS has received some wonderful donations to our collection this year. Lisa highlighted a few of those. The Johnston papers, from a 3-generation family from Castine, were donated by family member, Brian Witherspoon. The papers are mostly from the 2nd generation, Daniel Johnston. The Johnston family purchased Andrew Walker, an enslaved man, in New Orleans and brought him to Castine as a free man. This collection contained the only contract we have seen for the building of a ship. The contract was between the owners of the ship and the Noyes Shipyard in Castine and included drawings of the ship. This is an important addition to the collection.

CHS also received the 9/11 collection from the Brouillard Family, an example of contemporary Castine history. This collection documents the money raised at Dennett's Wharf restaurant for the families of 9/11 victims.

Other donations included 2 pieces of work by Clark Fitz-Gerald: the study for the Monumental Gate at the St. Louis Art Museum and the bull donated by Phil Freedman.

The two buildings on the Town Common, the Grindle House and the Abbott School, could be considered the two largest objects in our collection. This year saw the completion of the painting project at the Grindle House.

CHS received a \$7,000 grant from the Maine Historical Records Advisory Board. Wilson Museum has offered to donate their Castine archives to CHS. This is a huge collection which must be integrated into our current collection. The grant will be used to hire 2 part-time archival consultants to create a long-range plan, including costs, to accept this donation. The plan should be completed by the end of 2024. CHS will then apply for grants to fund a part-time consultant to complete the integration of the collection. This is a very complex, technical project but will allow researchers, who come from around the world, to find all the resources under one roof, with CHS being the best repository.

The Fundraising Events committee, chaired by Mary Dearborn, held the summer fundraiser, Midsummer Night Fling, at Gunilla Kettis' house on the common. The funds for these events are crucial to our operating budget and go toward the exhibitions, the educational programs and the collection care.

The Education committee, chaired by Alice Alston, has been working on developing a curriculum for the 7th and 8th grade at Adams School. Georgia Zildjian, a member of the committee, has developed the curriculum and will be presenting this multi-week program. It uses stories of the local African American population to tell the bigger stories such as slavery, abolition, trade with the South, and the post slavery era. Thanks to Adams School for their cooperation.

Lisa went on to thank the CHS staff, Mary Durost and Jules Thomson, for their hard work and the members of CHS for their encouragement and support.

Recognition of retiring Board members:

Board President Susan Hatch recognized the two retiring board members for their service. Alice Alston was chair of the Education committee and, until two years ago, was the Docent Coordinator. Ellie Benjamin was president of CHS during the Covid years. Recently she has chaired the Governance committee and been a member of the Finance and Development committees. Alice and Ellie both continue to serve as volunteer docents in the museum.

Susie also thanked Howard Lowell, who will continue to serve on the board but will be stepping down as the Vice-President. Howard now serves as the chair of the Executive Director Search Committee.

Vote by CHS membership for Board of Directors slate:

Ellie Benjamin, chair of the Governance committee, introduced the new Board of Directors slate: Mike Boucher, Melanie Twomey, and Lisa Haugen 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 Susan Hatch and seconded by Brooke Tenney. There was no further discussion, and a vote from the membership was called. The membership unanimously elected the slate for a 3-year term.

Three Board members, Roberta Boczkiewicz, Karen Lyon, and Brooke Tenney have agreed to serve a second term. The motion was made by John Mitchell and seconded by Howard Lowell. There was no further discussion and a vote from the membership was called. The membership unanimously elected Roberta, Karen and Brooke to a second term.

Ellie Benjamin announced the following slate of officers for 2024-2025: Susan Hatch, President; Dabney McKenzie, 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 short presentation thanking Lisa Simpson Lutts, the first executive director of CHS, as she prepares to retire in December.

Election of Officers: In a separate meeting as required by the CHS Bylaws, on a motion by Marc Pelletier and seconded by Howard Lowell, the Board voted unanimously by email to elect the

following officers for 2024-2025. Susan Hatch, President; Dabney McKenzie, Vice President; Brooke Tenney, Secretary; and John Mitchell, Treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Durost
Office Manager