

Chebeague Historical Society
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
January 16, 2023

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Chebeague Historical Society was held this date via Zoom.

Trustees Present: Mary Holt (President), Beth McNulty (Vice President), Carol Sabasteanski (Treasurer), Jill Whitman Marsee (Secretary), Evin Erder, Pat Festino, Ehrhardt Groothoff, Richard Hackel, David Hill, Jackie Trask

Trustees Absent: Gretchen Tonks Hartling, Marjorie Munroe

Staff present: Kendra McKinnon

Staff Absent: Donna Damon

Mary Holt, president, called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm ET.

Minutes

Motion made, seconded, and unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2022 Board meeting.

President's Report

Mary had no president's report.

Treasurer's Report

Carol distributed the Treasurers Report, Balance Sheet, and Profit and Loss Statement in advance of the meeting; these gave the 2022 year-end figures. The annual gross income was less than 2021 due to decreases in grant income, donations, membership, and retail sales. Operating Expenses increased, but when the IT expenses and the work on the windows (both were supported by grants) are subtracted, the basic annual expenses were similar. Net income was less and a significant loss in investment accounts. Not a great picture for 2022.

Motion made, seconded, and unanimously voted to approve the treasurer's report.

Carol is still working on the 2023 budget.

Committee Reports

Museum Shops

- Museum Gift Shop – Beth reported the museum shop is closed now. There was a sale in December (as well as some walk-in customers) and gross sales were about \$4000. The inventory process will be starting in February.
- Artisan Shop – Beth reported that Mary will be ordering more of the Maine Mail giclee's. Beth is starting her own website for her artwork and all profits from sales of "Maine Mail" will go to CIHS.

Membership/Annual Appeal:

- Carol reported the numbers for 2022 compared to 2021 and that we are running about \$2500 ahead. Kendra said that there is about \$6000 that has yet to be deposited.
- Several changes were made in the membership/annual appeal process, and the hope is that this makes a positive difference in memberships and donations.
- Kendra said that many of the new islanders have made contributions!

Programs

- Mary reported that 8 of the 12 Lectures for 2023 are booked.
 - The January lecture will be given by Gayle Bowness from the Gulf of Maine Research Center.
 - Others presenters are: Richard will present on his photography, Donna will do education on Chebeague part II (post WWII), Alex Todd and Alan Tracy about fisheries.
 - Cap Leonard is scheduling for the summer.
 - The lecture committee will be meeting soon.
- The exploratory permanent exhibit committee will be meeting to reflect on what they observed and learned during their field trips to other museums.

Old Business

Proposal to collaborate to offer a welcome dinner for new island residents – Carol reported about the progress on this endeavor. After the last meeting (in November), it seems to be morphing into quite an event. At the last meeting of the Executive Committee, it was discussed it and decided that CIHS doesn't have the people resources to sponsor it at this time.

Pat wondered if we could create a flyer to encourage new residents to come to the museum. David suggested a simple card to welcome new residents. Mary invited board members to help create such a flyer – Pat and David volunteered to collaborate.

Ehrhardt is going to investigate where the Great Chebeague book for new residents is at this point, so that it might be able to be sold (available) at the museum.

Proposal to buy OCR scanners for sheets and books – Mary reported that Donna and Richard need to investigate what the best choices would be. Richard shared he has prepared a list of options to review and consider with Donna. The purchase will be made from the Bates Fund.

New Business

Future leadership for the museum shop – Beth informed the Board that she will be stepping down from her museum shop role at the end of the coming season. She is happy to train someone new and help as she can in the transition.

- In discussion, it was mentioned that a committee had done the work prior to the pandemic and that may be possible in the future. Mary will touch base with Binkie who served on the committee before.
- David offered a motion for the fantastic job that Beth has done in trying times! There was acclaim from all!

Issues from the Board

Painting project – Mary shared Brad Miller of the 1772 Foundation suggested she submit an extension request rather than be concerned relative to not having a firm date for Profenno Painting to begin/complete the painting of the outside of the building. Ehrhardt reported that there may be some adjustment to the final cost for the painting project and suggests that painting be scheduled for end of summer, when all original windows should be re-installed.

Utility Costs – A question was asked about the cost of electricity bills with the new heat pumps. The oil bill has gone down (\$2600), but the electrical bill has gone up (\$2600). The questions was raised if it possible to putting the Historical Society on a solar farm?

Newsletter – Carol writes the newsletter every month. She asked for new ideas and suggestions from the Board for short articles and let her know! The deadline is the 20th of each month.

- Jackie suggested something about historical vignettes about houses, such as what Bill Danielson recently found during a remodel of their house. Stories were recounted:
 - Mary told a story about her house and Native Americans meeting with Nellie in her kitchen.

- Jackie recalled the story about finding her missing document – a letter of Marque signed by Thomas Jefferson and his secretary of state.
 - This will be the article for the next (February) newsletter!
- Beth has a treasure chest of history of her house.
- Jill told about finding the name of their cottage (Cedarcroft) at a CIHS exhibit.
- David said that the East End was known as Stingy Hill and Deer Point was Cannibal Point!
 - Carol said that the East Enders were primarily Stone Sloopers. The West Enders were primarily fishermen. They didn't always get along – that is why the church has two doors so they could enter separately!
- Mary said that Jenny Hackel has a great story about her family's first morning in the Higgens Farm (when they bought it) and trying to make coffee.
- Pat has a story about how she found Chebeague and bought an old house.

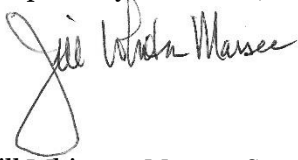
Banner – Beth said that the banner was caught by a big gust of wind and is hanging off the museum. She asked Ehrhardt to see if he could fix it.

There were no additional issues from the board.

There being no further business, adjournment at 8:08 p.m. (after several members were dropped of the Zoom connection due to internet failure on part of the island).

The next Board meeting will be **7 PM on February 16, 2023** via Zoom.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jill Whitman Marsee". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name of the signatory.

Jill Whitman Marsee, Secretary