

Chebeague Historical Society Meeting of the Governing Board

May 17, 2021

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

Officers Present: David Hill (President), Jackie Trask (Vice President), Gretchen Tonks Hartling (Treasurer), Mary Holt (Corresponding Secretary), Carol Sabasteanski (Recording Secretary)

Trustees Present: Chip Emery, Pat Festino

Officers Absent: None

Trustees Absent: Marjorie Munroe, Evin Erder, Nancy Hill, Roman Folk, Ehrhardt Groothoff, Beth McNulty

Staff present: Donna Damon

Trustee Nominees Present: Richard Hackel, Sarah Hopkins, Jill Marsee Whitman

David Hill, President, called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

Minutes

Motion made, seconded, and unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2021 Governing Board meeting.

President's Report

Strategic Planning Meeting Results

David asked Carol to summarize the results of the Strategic Planning meeting held on May 8th. Carol reviewed the report she distributed to the Governing Board prior to the meeting. The four top priorities for the Society were identified in that exercise. The officers will meet to develop a possible strategy for action plans to address the priorities. The proposed strategy, when developed, will be presented to the full Board for approval at a future meeting.

Top Priorities	Votes
Fiscal sustainability through fundraising and grants	8
Improve organizational structure – including policies and procedures	6
Enhance digital archive of collection and artwork – improving resource for visitors and research. Develop interactive online archive	5
Recruit, organize, sustain (appreciate) volunteer interaction and commitment. Board members as volunteers. Need volunteer leader	4

Bylaws Revisions

Carol developed suggested revisions to the Bylaws (last revised in 2013). David asked Carol to review the changes. The revised bylaws (draft 5) were distributed to the Board prior to the meeting along with a memo from Carol summarizing the changes. In order to adopt the revisions, the membership must approve them at the June 19th Annual Meeting.

Jill noted that Article VIII – Trustee Indemnification – was not included in the bylaws draft 5 that had been sent to the Board. This was an oversight and Carol, during the meeting, emailed the Board a sample

of what Article VIII would be. (Note: Carol incorporated Article VIII in the bylaws as draft 6 and distributed it to the Board after the meeting).

Motion made, seconded, and unanimously approved to accept the revisions with the addition of Article VIII and to present the revised bylaws to membership at the June 19th Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting

The Board discussed the upcoming June 19th Annual Meeting – which will be held via Zoom. Notices have been posted according to the bylaw requirements. Immediately following the meeting, Donna will do a presentation “Growing Up on Chebeague”. The Board agreed on the recommended selection for the Volunteer of the Year award. An agenda will be developed shortly.

Treasurer’s Report

Prior to the meeting, Gretchen emailed the Board the year-to-date results through April 2021. She reported that the FESP Committee continues to work on ways to reduce expenses – since our draft budget (distributed at the April meeting) shows a net loss for 2021. To address the anticipated deficit, the FESP Committee was authorized “*to implement expense reductions and operational changes which they deem appropriate and reasoned*” at the April 19th meeting. To that end, the projected payroll expense for Donna Damon has been reduced. Donna will work less hours in the second half of 2021. The committee continues to work on other ways to reduce expenses.

Motion made, seconded, and unanimously voted to approve the Treasurer’s Report.

Committee Reports

Finance:

See Treasurer’s Report

Operations and Merchandise:

Beth was not present at the meeting. Donna reported that the museum shop will be open when Beth is at the museum. She will put the flag out so that people know they can shop. Masks will be required. There will be a limit of three persons in the shop. The limit will be revisited when the exhibit opens.

Technology:

Chip said he is waiting for the decision from Recompense regarding our grant request. The amount of new equipment we can purchase will be limited by the award amount.

Buildings and Grounds:

Ehrhardt was not present at the meeting. Donna reported that the owner of Royal River Heat Pumps came to the museum and promised to make necessary changes to the installation at no cost to the Society. John Riley is still working on the insulation. An additional problem with a sill has been identified.

Membership/Annual Appeal:

Donna reported that the second appeal letter will be an insert with the Sloop’s Log (see Communications/Publications).

Collections/Exhibits:

Donna will need help with the exhibit when it is ready to be mounted. She is targeting a late June opening.

Communications/Publications:

Donna reported that the Sloop’s Log will be used as an appeal. Targeted letters will be inserted for prior donors, etc. It should be mailed within a couple of weeks.

Programs:

Donna will present the June lecture at the Annual Meeting. Erno Bonebakker will be the July speaker – focused on WWII.

Donna reported that, as part of our membership in the Maine Historical Society, we have received seven passes that will be offered to our members.

Old Business

Sculpture purchased from Clint Jones

Mary reported that she has met with Clint and they have agreed on where the sculpture should be placed on the side of the building.

Toll of the Sea Memorial

Donna reported that she and Binkie are meeting with BJ regarding the landscaping. She explained that BJ suggested that rocks be harvested by islanders and put around the monument. Instead, we are going to use purchased crushed stone.

New Business

Phragmites

The Society needs to address this invasive species by hiring a professional. The cost should be under \$1,000.

Chedemption

We need a coordinator and volunteers for our days at Chedemption – July 7th to the 13th. Mary volunteered to be the coordinator.

Motion, seconded and unanimously approved to adjourn at 8:37 p.m.

The next Board meeting will be *Monday, June 21* at 7 PM via Zoom.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carol Sabastanski
Recording Secretary