



OYSTERPONDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the Oysterponds Historical Society Annual Meeting November 4, 2017

1. The Oysterponds Historical Society Annual Meeting at Poquatuck Hall was called to order at 9:10 am. President Ellen Zimmerman welcomed everyone. All power point presentations from the meeting can be found on the OHS website.

2. Finance Report: Past, Present, and Future

Treasurer Sara Garretson reported on the 2016 audit, 2017 operation, and the 2018 budget.

Highlights:

- a. 2016: The audit report was completed. There was an increase in net assets of \$75,000.00.
- b. 2017: Membership dues are at a record high and event revenue has been very strong. We have a positive cash flow.
- c. 2018: The budget remains relatively stable, with a more conservative revenue projection. Potential challenges include dealing with the unexpected and potential fluctuations in the portfolio value.

3. Year in Review: Programs and Operations

President Ellen Zimmerman and Executive Director Elsbeth Dowd presented a review of programs and operations for 2017. This past year had the best membership number in 8 years, record breaking fundraising events, more than 1000 visitors for exhibitions from 31 states and 8 countries, more than 2000 visitors for educational programs and community events, and more than 100 volunteers. Highlights include:

a. Fundraising Events:

1. Houseman Dinner – netted \$12,100.00
2. The Old Print Shop – netted \$2,250.00
3. North Fork Fresh – netted \$17,300.00
4. Summer Benefit – netted \$102,722.00

b. Programs and Community Events:

1. Heritage Day
2. Fall Festival
3. Exhibitions
4. Panel Discussions
5. Art Classes
6. Children's Programs

c. The establishment of the Saturday Maker's Market and Artisan Demonstrations

- d. Operations – The Schoolhouse Restoration Project is complete.
- e. Major New Collections Acquisitions
- f. Capacity Building:
 - 1. Development of membership and donor database.
 - 2. Colin Palmer joined the staff as a membership associate.
 - 3. Development of a succession plan by the nominating committee.
- g. Administrative Improvements

4. Year in Review: Orient Methodist Church

Fundraising Chair Leslie Koch presented an extensive explanation of the Orient Methodist Church Project. OHS made a good-faith effort to acquire the church on behalf of the community. OHS had an MOU with the Peconic Land Trust (PLT), which agreed to use its revolving loan fund to finance the purchase and also provide extensive expertise. OHS had raised 10% of the purchase price and also submitted a grant to New York State to fund 50% of the purchase. The North Fork United Methodist Church chose to sell the Orient Methodist Church to another buyer. OHS has tried repeatedly to meet with this buyer to find out more about his intentions, and remains hopeful that he will keep the community's best interests at heart.

All donors to the project have been contacted to discuss how they would like their funds to be used. Some chose to have their contributions go towards paying expenses incurred while attempting to purchase the church. Others chose to have their contributions reallocated for OHS operations. We thank everyone who so generously supported this project and will update the community if we hear any further news.

5. Looking Ahead: Goals, Programs and Exhibitions

Ellen Zimmerman discussed goals and programs for the coming year and Curator Bill McNaught provided a preview of the 2018 exhibitions.

- a. Goals:
 - 1. Campus Plan
 - Safe and appropriate housing for collection
 - Building uses and enhancements
 - 2. Enhanced Marketing and Communications
 - Attract more visitors and program participation
 - Continued membership growth
 - 3. Raise Funds for Endowment and Operations
 - Grants
 - Development
 - 4. Update Strategic Plan
 - 5. Program Development
- b. 2018 Programs – Program Theme: *Farm to Table*
- c. 2018 Exhibitions: Ceramics, Baskets, WWII Posters, Recent Acquisitions, Abraham Tuthill
- d. Upcoming Events;
 - 1. Beach Plum Holiday Shop at the Old Point Schoolhouse

2. Holiday House Tour – December 9th.
3. Holiday Party – December 9th
4. Oysterponds Community Christmas Sing – December 10th

6. Election Results

The 2018 Trustee Slate was approved unanimously.

2018 Slate:

- EJ Camp (2018-2020, second term)
- Ann ffollott (2018-2020, second term)
- Allison Forstmann (2018-2019, first term)
- Angela Meredith-Jones (2018-2020, second term)
- Stephen Rotella (2018-2020, first term)
- Sandra Saiegh (2018-2019, first term)
- Howard Shainker (2018-2019, first term)
- Ellen Zimmerman (2018-2020, second term)

7. The Annual Meeting was adjourned at 10:15 am.