



Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting  
January 16, 2021

Attendees: President Robert Hanlon; Executive Director Sarah Sands; Trustees Ann ffollriott, Ted Harris, Michael Simon, Sara Olmstead, Charles Dean, Jessica Frankel, Suzanne Gluck, Jerie Newman, Nina Caufield, Sandra Saiegh, Leslie Cohen, Lydia Irving, Steve Rotella, Karin Constant

Guest: EJ Camp

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:03 am.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the November 21, 2020 minutes by Jessica Frankel and seconded by Ann ffollriott was unanimously approved.

**3. President's Report**

President, Robert Hanlon reported the following:

- Welcome to Charles Dean and Wilfred Joseph as new members of the Oysterponds Historical Society Board of Trustees.
- The response to the Griffin Giving Circles has been outstanding, which has put OHS in a more stable place. Thanks to Steve Rotella and the Development Committee, Sarah Sands and the OHS staff for making this possible.
- Programs – Despite the pandemic OHS had over 20 events in 2020. We will not know the 2021 program schedule until later this year. We are trying to figure out ways to have signature events and/or alternatives
- Thanks to all of the Committees and their hard work. They provide OHS with a tremendous amount of support.
- A Co-chair is needed for this year's Postcard Project.

**4. Financial Report**

Treasurer, Michael Simon reported the following:

- Attached to the agenda was the OHS Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2020, the Return of Organization Exempt Form Income Tax 2019 – Form 990, the OHS Financial Statements December 31, 2019 and 2018, and the OHS 2021 Budget.
- The Balance Sheet is strong due to the 2020 fund raisers, the Paycheck Protection Plan and the change of investment broker.

- We should be eligible for another application for the Paycheck Protection Plan (PPP) this year.
- The OHS 2021 Final Budget was presented and discussed. The Board of Trustees voted via email to approve the OHS 2021 Budget.

## 5. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director, Sarah Sands reported the following:

### Administrative

- Water supply leak in the Schoolhouse has been repaired. Awaiting a quote for a new sump pump. Ann ffolliott suggested looking into getting flood alarms.
- CHAR-NYS charity registration filed.
- PSEG completed repairs and installation of new transformer outside of Webb House. Installation of wall sconces and 2<sup>nd</sup> floor electrical work is on-going.
- Heating issue in Vail House repaired.
- Acknowledgements and benefits (magnets and gift certificates) sent to 306 members.

### Program and Mission

- Thanks to EJ Camp and Leslie Cohen for leading the effort to light Village House and the grounds for the holidays. Plan to keep the lights on through the winter and perhaps year-round.
- Establish account for grant application with Pomeroy Foundation to sponsor EMCA Historical District sign. Suggestion of Historic District sign for Orient as well.
- Joint East Marion Stories project with EMCA proceeding with printing postcards to invite community. Oral history interviews underway. Thanks to Ellen Zimmerman and Sandra Saiegh.
- Two Alone Together lectures completed, 4 more lectures are scheduled and 15 more are confirmed but not scheduled.
- Provided tour for 2 representatives of Stirling Historical Society, plan to discuss possible collaborative efforts.
- Discussions with guest curator Tom Dyja regarding Baseball on the North Fork exhibition.
- Discussion regarding William Steeple Davis artist exhibition during Spring or Fall.
- Created timeline for Summer Benefit-Postcard Project. Updating mailing list.
- Planning for "Pick-Up in NYC or Orient" Houseman dinner with EJ Camp as MC for one hour virtual auction event.

### Marketing

- Hamptons.com featured Beach Plum Christmas Shop
- Beach Plum Shop announcements in Suffolk Times

### What's Ahead

- March 5<sup>th</sup> – Houseman dinner and auction
- May 29<sup>th</sup> – Exhibitions open with similar safety measures as last year

## **6. Development Committee**

Chair, Steve Rotella reported the following:

- Campaigns Update – The latest revenue summary notes the huge success of the Griffin Giving Circles (58 donors at \$123,123.00) and membership campaigns (306 members at \$32,200.00). OHS is deeply appreciative of the work of the committee in personalizing appeals to the community.

Graphs tallying annual giving/Griffin giving and membership from 2016 through 2020 showed an increase in revenue for 2020. Also impressive is the 93% donor retention rate. Membership is the highest it has been in the last 10 years.

- Fundraising Strategic Priorities Progress Report – Many goals and tasks were completed despite the hardships of 2020.

Ideas for 2021 include:

- New benefits package for Griffin circle as well as emphasis on renewal and upgrades of current members and new donor appeal.
- Adding Planned Giving language to all materials.
- Membership outreach to newcomers to the Oysterponds community.
- A joint meeting with OA, Poquatuck Hall and EMCA to discuss ways to support each other. A joint membership drive was tabled.
- Feature newsletter articles should focus on how your donations are used.
- Sub-committee Chairs – Volunteers are needed to head sub-committees for Griffin circles which would include the 2021 campaign, Griffin walkway and Griffin dinner. Karin Constant has volunteered to lead an effort to reach new community members.
- 2021 Calendar – Sarah Sands shared a tentative calendar for fundraising and major events.

The Griffin dinner was moved to the Fall and Heritage Day was added.

## **7. Community Engagement Committee**

Chair, Leslie Cohen reported the following:

- With the help of community members, committee members and OHS staff all 2020 programs were very successful.
- Guest curator, Tom Dyja is working closely with Billy Hands on the Baseball on the North Fork Exhibition that will be in the Schoolhouse this summer.
- The committee is working on putting together a Garden Tour for 2021 and an exhibition featuring the work of the artist-in-residence at the William Steeple Davis studio.

## **8. Slaves Burying Ground Working Group**

Chair, Ann ffolliott reported the following:

- Dr. Allison McGovern, an archeologist who specializes in Indigenous and African-American sites on the East End of Long Island surveyed the Slaves Burying Ground. We are waiting for the report results.
- Volunteers are needed to do oral history interviews.

## **9. Strategic Priorities Plan/Mission Statement**

A review to date of the OHS Strategic Plan's priorities, goals, tactics and timelines were discussed.

- Steve Rotella presented the priorities, goals and accomplishments of the Development Committee Strategic Plan and Fundraising.
- Leslie Cohen discussed the priorities, goals and accomplishments of the Community Engagement Strategic Plan.
- Ann ffolliott talked about the priorities, goals and accomplishments of the Collections Strategic Plan.
- Suggestions and goals for 2021 were discussed as well.
- Copies of the above reports was attached to the agenda.

There is a need to refresh the OHS Mission Statement to meet the society of today.

## **10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am. The next board meeting is Saturday, March 20, 2021 at 9 am.