



Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting
July 23, 2021

Attendees: President Robert Hanlon; Executive Director Sarah Sands; Trustees Ann ffolliott, Steve Rotella, Sarah Olmstead, Howard Shinker, Leslie Cohen, Charles Dean, Leslie Koch, Jessica Frankel, Lydia Irving, Jeff Davis, Ted Harris, Jerie Newman, Suzanne Gluck, Karin Constant

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:05 pm.

2. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the May 15, 2021 minutes was unanimously approved.

3. Financial Report

Treasurer, Michael Simon reported the following:

- Attached to the agenda was the OHS Financial Report 2021 (2020 Actual December, 2021 Budget, 2021 Actual January – July), the OHS Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2021, the OHS Profit & Loss January through June 2021, the OHS Profit & Loss by Class January through June 2021, the Financial Statements December 31, 2020 and 2019 prepared by Skinnon and Faber, Certified Public Accountants, and the Finance Committee Report July 2021.
- OHS's general cash position and investment account remain in good shape.
- The audit is complete.
- The Finance Committee agreed that upon receipt of the bequest from the Estate of Constance Tupper the funds should be segregated in an account at a firm like Vanguard. Subsequently, the funds should be invested appropriately with a new investment manager to diversify our support or with our existing one, to be reviewed and recommended by the Finance Committee.
 - It was recommended that a policy similar to the Stein spending policy should be approved by the Board to allow for an annual percentage withdrawal.
 - Unlike the Stein funds which provide for operating support, it was suggested that the "Tupper draw" be used for Board approved special projects for Buildings and Grounds, conservation and other needs that would be identified on an annual basis and have not been properly funded in recent years.

- Sarah Sands will establish a Vanguard Money Market account to deposit the bequest revenue as soon as it is available. It will be held until a spending policy and priorities are established. At that time, the Finance Committee will recommend a longer term investment plan to the Board for preservation of the Tupper Fund.

4. Executive Director's Report

Administrative

- BetterWorld auction program successfully used for A Moveable Feast auction which saved \$2,400.00.
- \$1,500.00 grant from the Gardiner Foundation for summer intern, Alex McIntosh started July 1st. The job includes assisting with collections, docents and programs and opening and closing the exhibitions on Sundays.
- Admission via cash and credit card dip machine is working well - no pushback from visitors.
- Grounds clean-up funded by \$1,000.00 gift from John Holzapfel was completed on July 11th.

Program & Mission

- Griffin and member exhibition openings attended by approximately 100 individuals.
- Over 100 attended Heritage Day celebration.
- Wednesday evening concerts have had low attendance.
- 50 people attended Baseball roundtable led by Tom Dyja.
- Awaiting delivery of Griffin walkway engraved bricks.
- Submitted all documents for Suffolk County Department of Parks grant amount of \$5,000.00 for exhibition design and installation expense.
- Grant for conservation of 8 maritime paintings in progress.
- Exhibition guides updated to include new procedures and exhibition descriptions.
- Garden Tour sold out at 250. Net income was \$6,685.00.
- 130 total boxes sold for A Moveable Feast, net income approximately \$3,500.00, plus 57 Griffin lunches. Final net income approximately \$7,000.00.

Marketing

- East End Beacon on-line and print article on Baseball Exhibition.
- Weekly listings in Suffolk Times for exhibitions, Wednesday evening programs and exhibition-related programs.
- Listing in Newsday for Heritage Day.
- Tom Dyja, Billy Hands and Alison Ventura were interviewed by Bob Liepa for Suffolk Times article.

What's Ahead

- OHS 2021 attached to the agenda.

5. Development Committee

Chair, Steve Rotella reported the following:

- The Griffin Giving Circle drive is generally on target with the addition of a few new members.
- The engraved brick walkway is in progress
- The Griffin Giving Cocktail Party is being held on Saturday, August 14th from 6 – 8 pm. Thank you to Susan Holden for hosting the party.
- A full membership drive will take place in the fall.

6. Community Engagement Committee

Chair, Leslie Cohen reported the following:

- Attendance at events has been a little low this year.
- The Orient Baseball Game will take place on Sunday, July 25th at the Oysterponds School playing field.
- There has been positive feedback for the Moveable Feast. The event netted \$7,000.00 and the silent auction netted \$4763.00. Thanks to all the volunteers for their help.
- The next event is the Secret Postcard Project. The postcards can be viewed on the website. The online auction begins Monday, August 30th and ends on Sunday, September 5th at 10pm. A postcard exhibit and reception will be held on Sunday, September 5th from 5-7pm.
- An education program is being planned for July 29th.

7. Collections Committee

Chair, Ann ffolliott reported the following:

- A large group of items have been proposed and agreed upon for deaccessioning. Donors of the items will be contacted.
- Items to be deaccessioned include the following: a large number of chairs, including a rocking chair; a barrel; a hooded cradle; part of a mangle; a waffle iron; a sieve; an ash pail, a cradle; two fire screens and two headboards.
- Members of the Collections Committee are planning to visit other historical societies to view their storage facilities.
- Amy Folk will be in touch with a Pennsylvania auction house in regards to the carriages.

8. Slaves Burying Ground Working Group

Chair, Ann ffolliott reported the following:

- During the last year, the SBG group has learned a lot about the site. But we don't yet know the origins of the story outlined on the 1951 sign and we have not yet learned much about Seth and Maria Tuthill. To try to fill in some gaps, the working group recommends hiring Kathleen Hulser, an experienced researcher who can look at probate records, tax records, land transfer records, agricultural and manufacturing tables of the US census and other archival sources to uncover whatever information they hold. Ms. Hulser specializes in this kind of research and is highly recommended by Paul Gunther, the Executive Director of the Gracie Mansion Conservancy.

9. Tupper Working Group

- The members of the Tupper Working Group are Ed Caufield, Leslie Cohen, Ann ffolliott, Sarah Olmstead, Steve Rotella, Sarah Sands, Suzanne Gluck and Michael Simon.
- The group met on June 2 and June 22. Minutes from their meetings were attached to the agenda.
- The bequest to the Oysterponds Historical Society will probably take place at the end of 2021 into the beginning of 2022.
 - A separate account will be set up to receive the gift. The draw will be used for smaller capital projects.
 - A portion will be allocated to be used as a capital campaign which can be matched by the community and a Gardiner grant.
 - The feasibility of a Vail House addition for collection storage and hiring a project manager to oversee said project was discussed.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 pm. The next board meeting is Saturday, September 18, 2021 at 9:00 am.