

MONHEGAN HISTORICAL & CULTURAL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION, INC.
34th ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS
AUGUST 16, 2018
1:00PM to 2:00PM

MINUTES

In attendance:

- **Officers:** Edward Deci, President; Susan Bateson, Vice President; Robert Stahl, Treasurer; Susan Bateson, Secretary.
- **Trustees:** Dan Broeckelmann, Peter Nelson, Jim O’Gorman, and Earle Shettleworth.
- **Members:** Susan Anderson, Bob and Ann Bartels, Gillian Bonazoli, Clare Durst, Steve Fuller, Susan Danly, Bob and Penny Smith, and Margot Sullivan.
- **Staff:** Jenn Pye, Chief Curator; Emily Grey, Curator of Exhibitions.

Absent Trustees: Muffy Pendergast, Sarah Webb.

President Ed Deci called the meeting to order at 1:00pm, welcomed members to the meeting, expressed thanks for the use of the Monhegan Community Church as the meeting venue, and introduced the Officers and Trustees in attendance. Minutes of the August 17, 2017 meeting of members that were made available to members at the meeting were accepted as written.

Report from the President: Edward Deci

This has been an extremely exciting year for the Monhegan Museum. It is our 50th anniversary of having exhibits in the Keeper’s house open to the public, and it is our 20th anniversary of having the replica of the Assistant Keeper’s house with the beautiful art galleries, curators’ offices, and storage of archives, as well as the replica of the barn beside the Assistant Keeper’s house that is used as an art storage vault.

Our curatorial staff comprises Jennifer Pye, chief curator; Emily Grey, curator of exhibitions; Pamela Rollinger, curatorial assistant; and Tara Hire, operations manager. Each has done an extraordinary job in her position during the past year.

Various exceptional things have occurred for us during the year. I will give a brief overview of these occurrences, and other reports will provide additional details.

- We have completed the improved climate-control system at the museum, which is sustainable and environmentally friendly, was funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, and was supervised by Jennifer Pye.
- The Rockwell Kent – James Fitzgerald house and studio on Horn’s Hill were accepted into the Historic Artists Homes and Studios Program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Robert Stahl prepared the application and supervised the process of providing relevant information.
- Phyllis and Jamie Wyeth have given us a one-million-dollar challenge. If we raise one million dollars by December 31, 2020, they will give us a matching million dollars. Thus far we have had slightly more than \$220,000 in donations, and we have had about \$250,000 in pledges. We are well on our way to meeting the challenge. The purpose of the Wyeth Challenge was to enhance our endowment so that the interest and dividends will allow us to pay operating expenses.

- Jamie Wyeth has also made public that he is planning to give his entire collection of Rockwell Kent art to the Monhegan Museum. It includes nine important paintings plus many drawings, and various wood engravings.
- Geraldine King Tam, who was an outstanding botanical artist, has bequeathed to us the entire collection of botanical watercolors she painted of Monhegan's wildflowers. We are considering the possibility of publishing a book of those watercolors as well as doing displays of them as framed art works.

In May of this year Elizabeth and Stuart Eichner hosted a party at their penthouse in New York City as a fund raising event for the Monhegan Museum. In June of this year, Lenny and Merle Nelson hosted a similar fund-raising event for the museum at their beautiful home in the Portland Harbor in Cumberland Foreside, ME. All of the money raised at these events will go toward the Wyeth Match.

On August 1, 2018 we held a Jubilee on Lighthouse Hill as a celebration. Approximately 200 people attended this very exciting event. At the Jubilee, John Gummere was named Honorary President of the Monhegan Museum's 50th anniversary Jubilee Year for his great generosity to the museum, given in memory of his lovely wife Ellie.

Finally, I would like to express my deep thanks and great appreciation to all the trustees, officers, members, and volunteers of the Monhegan Museum and of the Monhegan Museum Association.

Report from the Treasurer: Robert Stahl

Please see the financial package submitted by Bob, including: Treasurer's Report 2018; Association's Condensed Profit & Loss Statement for January through June 30, 2018; Combined (Museum and FL) Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2018; Combined (Museum and FL) Budget vs. Actual for January through June 30, 2018; and the 2018 Semi-Annual Report from our investment advisors at Cribstone Capital Management. Bob discussed the highlights of the Treasurer's Report.

Report of the Curatorial Team: Jennifer Pye, Chief Curator

Please see the three reports submitted by the Curatorial Team: MMA Curatorial Report 2018; MMA Volunteer Docents 2017-2018; and Accessions 2017-2018. Jenn discussed the highlights of the Curatorial Report and the successes of the 50th Anniversary events to date.

Report of Membership & Development Committee: Susan Bateson, Chair

Please see the Museum Membership & Development Report submitted by Susan. Susan discussed the highlights of progress over 2017 results, which were not included in the report. Those were:

- General Members – households who give between \$25 and \$249 in a membership year increased 42%, from 113 this time last year to 161 this year.
- Circles of Friends Members – households who give \$250 or more in a membership year tripled, from 40 this time last year (the program's inaugural year) to 121 this year.
- Many of our members at the "General" level of giving last year increased their donations to the "Circles of Friends" level of giving for this year.
- Many of our Benefactors are continuing to give annually to help fund ongoing operations
- Donations in total have more than doubled over this time last year, from \$106,000 this time last year to \$220,000 this year.
- This year, 16 businesses (on Monhegan and the mainland) have signed on as sponsors, versus five last year.

Report of Fitzgerald Legacy Committee: Robert Stahl, Chair

Bob reported the following highlights:

- National Trust for Historic Preservation's selection of the Kent/Fitzgerald Home and Studio to become a member of the Historic Artists Homes and Studios Program and publicity the Museum is receiving as a consequence of this prestigious designation.
- He is working with two collectors on possible gifts of Fitzgerald paintings to the Legacy.
- To date, approximately 200 copies of *James Fitzgerald: The Drawings and Sketches* have been sold.
- Dan Broeckelmann is working with Bob on repairing some of the windows in the Fitzgerald Studio.
- Island Resident, Jennifer Marr, has been volunteering as an intern at the Studio this summer and helping Bob and Dan cover Studio hours and visitors.

Nominating Committee: Dan Broeckelmann, Chair

The Committee submitted the following slate of Officers for approval. Terms are for one-year terms, with no term limits.

- Edward Deci, President
- Bob Stahl, Treasurer
- Susan Bateson, Vice President and Secretary

The slate of Officers was approved as submitted.

The Committee then submitted the following slate of Trustees for approval. Terms are for three-year terms, with a maximum of two consecutive terms.

- James O'Gorman (2nd term)
- Earle Shettleworth (2nd term)
- Kathleen Perry
- Elena Henry
- Laureen Gastón

The slate of Trustees was approved as submitted.

Open Forum for questions or comments:

- Trustee Earle Shettleworth mentioned that the Museum would be receiving Monhegan artifacts, including several decoys, from the estate of Sally Rand.
- Member Susan Anderson, who volunteers as a Docent, reported she had received suggestions from visitors that the Museum expand its hours to accommodate more day-tripping visitors and offer Gallery Talks on weekends so more visitors might enjoy them.

The Members Meeting adjourned at approximately 2pm.