

**Berkshire County Historical Society**  
**Annual Meeting Minutes**  
May 14, 2021

The meeting was held at Arrowhead and remotely using Zoom.

**Call to Order**

Cindy Brown, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

**Minutes**

Don Pfeifer presented the minutes from the 2020 Annual Meeting. Eileen Myers made a motion to approve the minutes. John Dickson seconded the motion. There was no discussion or changes to the minutes and the vote to approve the minutes was unanimous.

**President's Report**

Cindy Brown thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She noted the importance and significance of being able to meet in person for the first time in many months and thanked the staff and volunteers for working so hard to fulfill the organization's mission during these difficult times. A constant stream of accommodations had to be made to keep operating. We appear to be on the cusp of returning to normal or near normal operations. Most importantly, we are emerging from the pandemic in good shape noting the importance of both the Fay Henry bequest and federal aid.

As we look forward, we need to re-focus on the strategic plan. Much has been accomplished but there is more to be done. It is also likely time for a new plan. She shared the BCHS Land Acknowledgement statement which grew out of a collaborative project with the Stockbridge-Munsee Community on an exhibit to open at the Berkshire Museum on August 1. She is planning to put together a task force to look at options for acquiring another building or exhibit space to expand BCHS exhibit capacity. Volunteers to join the task force are needed. This summer's Moby Dick reading marathon will be hybrid having both in-person and Zoom options.

**Executive Director's Report**

Lesley Herzberg reported on the status of several capital projects. A \$10,000 grant from the Pittsfield Community Preservation Act for work on the barn roof was received. Funds are still being raised for this project, but it will be going forward. The Historic Structures Report will begin in the fall. An additional \$10,000 grant is being requested from the Fitzpatrick Trust for this project. Work to repair the North driveway is complete resulting in greatly improved access. Discussion is underway for repair work to the South driveway. There is new and improved parking lot lighting due to a Feigenbaum grant.

Many inquiries have been received about renting the Arrowhead grounds for weddings and events. There will be a fundraiser on June 7 involving the release of the Moby Dick audio tape and August 5 is the date for the Annual Fundraiser. The orchard and pollinator projects will both be starting soon.

## **Curator's Presentation**

Erin Hunt's presentation focused on recent acquisitions noting that there were fewer donations this year than usual. She displayed and described a recent donation of an edition of Moby Dick published by the Arion Press in 1979. Only 250 copies of the volume were printed. It is illustrated with Barry Moser prints, printed on handmade paper, hand typeset, and hand bound resulting in a beautiful object. Current value is estimated to be in the \$20,000 to \$30,000 range.

## **Education Director's Report**

Jana Laiz noted a busy year of education-related activities and events. The Arrowhead virtual book club continues online. A second writing workshop for middle and high school students has finished. Students and parents came to the final presentations. Additional workshops are planned. The Hidden Women series of performances was held. She is working with Chris Laney on the Melville fellows writing program and working with Yvette Sirker on a summer program. The Writers-in-Residence program is continuing. A curriculum tie-in is being developed for the Mohegan exhibit. She is looking into the idea of re-instituting the press and publications.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Bob Salerno reported on the status of the BCHS budget. The past year was certainly an unusual year with significant pandemic related impacts, but we are finishing the year in a better than expected position. Admissions were better than expected and the shop did well. Memberships were up about 25% and grants were doubled. The Fay Henry bequest was significant in increasing the assets of the organization. At this point operations are tracking close to budget.

## **Nominating Committee**

John Dickson presented the slate of officers for 2021 as well as nominations for new terms of office for the Board of Directors. The slate of officers was:

President: Cynthia Brown  
Vice President: John Dickson  
Secretary: Don Pfeifer  
Treasurer: Robert Salerno

Nominations for new terms on the Board were:

For first term: Sharon Coe  
John Hamilton  
Richard Matturro  
Laurie Werner

For second term: Valerie Andersen  
Alex Reczkowski

For third term:           Donald Pfeifer  
                                  Robert Salerno

It was agreed that a single vote would be conducted for all the nominations. Eileen Myers made a motion to approve the slate of officers and nominations for new terms on the Board. John Hamilton seconded the motion. The vote for approval was unanimous.

**Adjournment**

Eileen Myers made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Steven Pucker. The vote to adjourn the meeting was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 5:14 p.m.