

**Berkshire County Historical Society
Annual Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2021**

The meeting was held at the Country Club of Pittsfield with some members participating on Zoom.

Call to Order

Cindy Brown, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m. and welcomed members and guests to the annual meeting and reminded members of the bylaw change that resulted in the annual meeting being moved from May to December.

Minutes

Don Pfeifer presented the minutes from the May 2021 Annual Meeting. Eileen Myers made a motion to approve the minutes. Sharon Coe seconded the motion. There was no discussion or changes to the minutes and the vote to approve the minutes was unanimous.

Nominations for Society Officers for 2022

John Dickson presented the following nominations for society officers for 2022:

Cynthia (Cindy) Brown, President
John Dickson, Vice President
Robert (Bob) Salerno, Treasurer
Donald (Don) Pfeifer, Secretary

John Hamilton made a motion to approve the slate of nominations. Laurie Weiner seconded the motion. The vote to approve was unanimous.

Nominations for the Board of Directors

Cindy Brown presented the nominations for new members of the Board of Directors for the term January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2023. They are:

Jenna Sciuto, Associate Professor, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
Rebecca (Becky) Sorrentino, Vice President, Berkshire Bank

Valerie Andersen made a motion to approve the nominations. Eileen Myers seconded the motion. The vote to approve was unanimous.

Season Review

Executive Director Lesley Herzberg provided a review of some of the planned activities for the upcoming BCHS/Arrowhead season, noting the planning challenges caused by the pandemic and that many events were events that were moved from the previous pandemic impacted year.

During the winter and spring Jana Laiz will be conducting several writing workshops. Several virtual tours are planned including an architecture tour with John Dickson and a Lizzie Melville tour with Francine Ciccarella playing Lizzie. The virtual book club is ongoing. Upcoming authors will include Melville, Wharton and others. The next book will be "In the Heart of the Sea" by Nathaniel Philbrick. Tammy Denease will present several virtual performances from her "Hidden Women" series.

Later in the season there will be a repeat performance of the Hawthorne-themed play “Mr. Melancholy.” A June fundraiser is planned around the release of the audio book of Moby Dick with Jonathan Epstein reading. The August fundraiser will be held by the lake at the Country Club of Pittsfield and will include a short performance with Francine Ciccarelli playing Sarah Morewood.

Erin Hunt is working on the exhibit at Arrowhead for this season which will be called “Lifting the Veil – Mourning in the Berkshires.” The Mastheads writer’s studio project will be ongoing this summer.

Lectures and performances are still being planned for the fall season and will include a film series at the Berkshire Museum in November. There will also be a holiday lights tour and a book reading with Kevin O’Hara.

Report of the Education Coordinator

Education Coordinator Jana Laiz reported on some additional activities other than those already mentioned by Lesley. Planning is underway for this year’s Moby Dick marathon which will again have an option for Zoom participation. Actor Paul Giamatti will be invited back and will hopefully participate in the 2022 reading. A writing program is being planned for use in the schools. It will involve four sessions around the theme of being inspired by Melville. The Melville writing fellows program continues this year for area college students.

Presentations by the 2021 Melville Fellows

Jana Laiz introduced the two 2021 Melville Fellows; BCC student Aylene Dominguez and MCLA student Shawna Hennessey. Each student read selections from their work inspired by their time working at Arrowhead during the past year.

Adjournment

Eileen Myers made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Carol Nichols. The meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m.