

MINUTES

**Henry Sheldon Museum Annual Meeting
Monday, November 8, 2021**

VIA ZOOM

Agenda

1. President Lucinda Cockrell
 - Welcome remarks
 - Recognizes staff, current trustees and officers, and honorary trustees
 - Recognizes retiring Executive Director Bill Brooks
2. Secretary Silvia M. Gonzalez calls for vote on the 2020 annual meeting minutes
3. Treasurer Cy Tall highlights the finances to date
4. Vice President David Holmes
 - Thanks and pays tribute to outgoing trustees
 - Presents slate of new trustees, and those assuming a 2nd term
 - Calls for vote to approve slate of nominees and 2nd term trustees
 - Introduces Bill Brooks to give year in review presentation
5. Executive Director Bill Brooks presents year in review
6. Trustee David Stameshkin introduces Guest Speaker, Alex Wolff
7. Presentation by Alexander Wolff, followed by Q&A (facilitated by Collections Associate and Grant Writer Taylor Rossini)
8. President Lucinda Cockrell
 - Thanks speaker and members
 - Announcements
 - Adjourns Annual Membership Meeting

Following the Annual Membership meeting the outgoing and incoming Executive Committee members and voting Board of Trustee members will stay on Zoom to elect new officers per By-laws Article V, Section 3.

1. The meeting was called to order by President Lucinda Cockrell, and she welcomed and thanked guests and members for their continued support. She recognized and thanked Executive Director Bill Brooks, who is retiring at the end of the year after almost 10 years of service. President Cockrell also thanked the rest of the staff for a remarkable year: Mary Ward Manley, Associate Director; Eva Garcelon-Hart, Archivist; Taylor Rossini, Collections Associate and Grant Writer; Mary Caron, Bookkeeper; Suzanne Douglas, Museum Store Specialist; Ava Freeman, Collection Specialist; Donna Sargent, Housekeeper; Lance Phelps, Facilities; and Sarah Stahl, Museum Shop manager. She also thanked the numerous and wonderful museum and RC volunteers. Next, President Cockrell recognized and thanked the current Trustees (including Officers) for their hard work and generous contributions: Robert Black, Lucinda Cockrell (President), Ellery Foutch, Mark Friis, Silvia M. Gonzalez (Secretary), David Holmes (Vice President), Sara Huddleston, Warren Kimble, Liz Markowski, Patti Marrinan, Dianne Palmeri, David Stameshkin, Cy Tall (Treasurer), and Richard Wein. Lastly, President Cockrell recognized the Honorary Trustees: Glen Andres, Travis B. Jacobs, Julie Peddie, John M. McCardell, Jr., and Cy Tall.
2. Secretary Silvia M. Gonzalez moved to accept the 2020 Annual Meeting minutes (previously circulated to museum members via email) as recorded. Seconded by Ellery Foutch. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Treasurer Cy T. reminded the audience of the financial challenges the museum faced in 2020, and how uncertain the financial outlook seemed in early 2021. But thanks to the tireless efforts of museum staff and volunteers, and the extraordinary contributions from loyal members and donors, the museum ended the year 2020 in a stronger than anticipated financial position, which gave the museum a good start in 2021. Cautious optimism guided the Finance Committee's financial planning and forecasting for 2021. The Committee, under Diane Palmeri's guidance, reviewed in detail every aspect of current and past revenue and expenses, and adopted best practices for budgeting and reporting. Treasurer Tall expressed her deepest gratitude to incoming Treasurer Diane

Palmeri for her tireless and invaluable efforts. She also thanked Bookkeeper Mary Caron for her hard work.

The museum successfully secured a second round of relief funds. And thanks to diligent work from staff, volunteers and trustees, the museum was able to generate income with various grants and special events, including our first-time online auction. Generous contributions from loyal donors allowed the museum to hire a much-needed part-time Collections Manager to help with ongoing collection issues. And special thanks were given to sponsors and underwriters which made possible this year's in-person exhibits. There was an unforeseen major expense: the repair of our 30-year-old elevator. Happily, these expenses will be mostly covered by the amazing generosity of several friends of the museum. Throughout another unusual financial year, the museum managed to meet its financial obligations, projecting to finish the year reasonably well. Treasurer Tall paid a personal tribute to retiring Executive Director Bill Brooks. She expressed her gratitude for his extraordinary tenure and wished him well in his retirement.

4. Vice President David Holmes paid tribute to outgoing trustees, Warren Kimble and Patti Marrinan, and he thanked them for their generosity, commitment and invaluable efforts on behalf of the museum. VP Holmes presented the slate of nominees to the HSM Board of Trustees and moved to elect: Kelly Hickey, Sara Blaise Huddleston, Conor Marrinan and David Stameshkin (bios were circulated via email prior to the meeting). Seconded by Cy Tall. Motion passed unanimously. Next, VP Holmes introduced current board members seeking re-election to second terms and he moved to elect Robert Black, David Holmes and Silvia M. Gonzalez. Seconded by Cy Tall. Motion passed unanimously.
5. Executive Director Bill Brooks' year-end report *highlights*: Winter/Spring: the publication of an updated edition of Glenn Andres' "A Walking History of Middlebury, VT;" on-line events including a Valentine's Day-themed workshop, and a presentation by Middlebury College professor and HSM Trustee, Ellery Foutch ("Forget Me Not: Memorial Practices in 19th Century VT."); a fun family-friendly tour of Addison County Maple sugar houses; and the publication of articles by Archivist Eva Garcelon-Hart and Bill Hart during Black History Month.

Summer/Fall: After being closed to the public for over a year and a half, the museum welcomed back dedicated staff Suzanne Douglas and devoted Research Center volunteers. The Museum re-opened its doors to the public on July 13th and offered in-person exhibits: "Faces of Addison County: A Trent Campbell Retrospective;" "Kate Pond from the Heart: A Sculptor's Process;" and "Sightlines: Picturing the Battell Wilderness," featuring paintings by Jill Madden and photographs by Caleb Kenna. There were several talks and events organized in conjunction with these three exhibits. For the third year in a row, the Museum played host to the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival for several events. Executive Director Brooks thanked the Middlebury Garden Club for beautifully maintaining and supporting the Museum garden.

Main event: The RC exhibit Henry at 200 to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Museum founder Henry Sheldon's birth featured rarely displayed documents and artifacts, photographs, diaries, music ephemera and more. On August 15th, the Museum celebrated Henry's birthday with a fun community-wide event featuring sidewalk art, face painting, music, and food trucks. Several talks and events were held in conjunction with the 200th anniversary celebration. To highlight Henry Sheldon's interest in music and his tenure as St. Stephens Episcopal Church's organist, Collections Associate and Grant Writer Taylor Rossini and Ronnie Romano organized an organ recital by George Matthew, Jr. at Middlebury's St. Stephens Episcopal Church.

Much needed maintenance and several building improvements were undertaken this year, including the restoration of the barn door and historic windows, and upgrading of the HVAC systems. Collection Specialist Ava Freeman diligently worked to address the moth infestation in our textile collection.

The Stewart-Swift Research Center secured a VT Humanities grant to make possible a virtual monthly lecture series *Elephant in The Room: Exploring the Future of Museums*.

The museum held its first on-line fundraising auction this fall, featuring generous donations by museum trustees, friends, and local businesses. Executive Director Brooks thanked the nine local artists who decorated the miniature Christmas trees featured in the upcoming holiday raffle. He thanked everybody in attendance and museum supporters, and he especially expressed his gratitude to outgoing trustees W. Kimble and P. Marrinan.

6. Trustee David Stameshkin introduced this year's guest speaker Cornwall, VT resident Alexander Wolff. Wolff spent 36 years on staff at Sports Illustrated and he was author, co-author and editor of 9 books, including NYT's bestseller *Raw Recruits*. In his presentation, "Riddling Out *Endpapers*," Wolff described the process of researching and writing his latest book *Endpapers*, about his publisher grandfather, who fled the Nazis, and his father, who was left behind to fight for them. Wolff spent a year in Berlin sifting through family letters and diaries, and mining German archives. His remarks were followed by a lively question and answer session led by Collections Associate and Grant Writer Taylor Rossini.

7. President Cockrell thanked guest speaker Alexander Wolff for his wonderful remarks, as well as all the participants, members, current and former trustees, and staff for joining the annual meeting via ZOOM.

Meeting adjourned.

MINUTES

Meeting of outgoing and incoming Executive Committee members and voting Board of Trustees to elect new officers

Monday, November 8th, 2021

Following the Annual Membership meeting

VIA ZOOM

President Lucinda Cockrell called meeting to order.

Vice President and Chair of the Nominating Committee David Holmes presented the slate of officers:

Lucinda Cockrell: President
David Stameshkin: Vice President
Silvia M. Gonzalez: Secretary
Diane Palmeri: Treasurer

VP David Holmes moved to approve slate of officers by acclamation. Seconded by Cy Tall. Motion passed unanimously. She

congratulated newly elected officers and expressed much gratitude and appreciation to outgoing officers D. Holmes and C. Tall.

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes by SG