



CONNECTICUT RIVER MUSEUM

Annual Members Meeting

September 21, 2024

Minutes

Call to Order: Chair John Bennet called the Annual Members Meeting to order at 3:30 PM. Chairman's Remarks – John Bennet extended a warm welcome to the Membership who had joined from the festivities of the Museum's first "Block Party", in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of the Museum.

John noted the passing of highly regarded and longtime Trustee Ray Gaulke, who, with Peter Coombs, made the convincing presentation that resulted in John joining the CRM Board. Ray will be missed by all who knew him.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: The Minutes of the September 21, 2023 Annual Members Meeting were presented for comment. **UPON A MOTION MADE AND SECONDED, THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS PRESENTED.**

John praised the full and active schedule of exhibits, educational activities including the Environmental Symposium at Wesleyan, special events, public programs and activities developed by an invigorated staff for the Museum's diverse audiences. Upcoming projects include the long-awaited expansion of the Lay House.

John thanked outgoing Trustees, Past Treasurer Bob Annon who will remain as a member of the Finance Committee, and Tod Cunningham for their leadership and dedication to the Museum during their terms. In addition, John welcomed new Trustees, James Paisley '25, Deborah DeHertogh '26, and the return of Past Chair Peter Coombs '27.

Treasurer's Report: Tom Wilcox

Tom presented the Museum's internally prepared, strong and liquid, summary balance sheet together with an operating statement reflecting Net Operating Income of \$12,000 compared to a break-even budget. **UPON A MOTION MADE AND SECONDED, THE TREASURER'S REPORT WAS ACCEPTED.**

Reports of the Executive Director and Committees:

1. Executive Director Elizabeth Kaeser reviewed an active schedule which drew a 10% increase in total attendance. The schedule included the ongoing interactive and award winning exhibit *Getting There: Wayfinding in the Pre-Modern Age*; eagle, environmental, swallow and foliage cruises on both *Onrust* and *RiverQuest*; *Birding on Board* for students; increased attendance at Summer Camp; informative lecture series; entertaining Thursdays on the Docks; Conquer the Current paddle; July 4 boat parade before 700+ celebrants; Shad Bake Display; Sensory Friendly Hour; Trees in the Rigging; and our annual social gatherings of the Museum members and supporters at *RiverFare* and *Mistletoe and Martinis*.
2. Collection & Exhibitions: Upcoming in November thru February will be the 31st year of Steve Cryan's HO scale model train show, followed by *River Ballads* – artwork Barbara Hocker. Finally, planning is under way for a 2025-6 exhibit about Maritime Trades.
3. Governance: John reviewed the proposed change to the By-Laws regarding Trustees Emeriti whereby a Trustee who has served for nine years, and who is not currently a Trustee, shall automatically become a Trustee Emeritus, an honorary and non-voting designation. **UPON A MOTION MADE AND SECONDED, THIS CHANGE TO THE BY-LAWS WAS APPROVED.**

CRM Founders Award

With gratitude for his dedication and exceptional volunteer service to the Museum, the 2024 Founders Award was awarded to John Harris.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
John H. Frost
Secretary