



Salisbury Historical Society
Executive Board Meeting Minutes
October 15, 2024 6:30 pm

Executive Board

Joseph Schmidl, President (Present)
Eve Grello, Secretary (Absent)
David Rapalyea, Treasurer, outgoing (Present)
Cheryl Bentley, Treasurer, incoming (Present)
David Hostetler, Curator (Absent)

Trustees

David Merwin, Trustee (Present)
Melissa Lesniak, Trustee (Absent)
Scott Cooper, Trustee (Present)

Guests

Louise Andrus, Membership Committee Chair
Sharyn Goddard, Asst. Webmistress

Rose Cravens, Displays Manager & Webmistress
Cindy Owen, Museum Manager & Merchandise

Review of Minutes from July 16, 2024 Meeting

President Schmidl reported that, although he covered the meeting for Secretary Henry, he failed to record the minutes, so there are none to review.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Rapalyea provided a report of current expenses and income against the 2024 budget. He reported we are \$3,473.43 behind in income and \$1,437.01 ahead in expenses, which includes the \$3,800 deposit to operating Funds from the Trust fund earlier this year. He also reported that gifts to the Scholarship Fund this year are at \$1,125. Trustee Merwin moved to accept the Treasurer's Report and Treasurer Rapalyea seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Trustee's Report

President (and former Trustee) Schmidl reported that the October 10 report from Clear Perspective Advisors, LLC indicated the year-to-date interest rate for the funds was 7.09% and the current value is \$92,063.28. Treasurer Rapalyea moved to accept the Trustee's Report and Trustee Merwin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Trustee Cooper indicated he hasn't been contacted by Clear Perspective Advisors, LLC yet regarding receiving the trust fund reports directly; President Schmidl said he would follow-up on that.

Curator's Report

President Schmidl explained that immediately prior to the Annual Members Meeting, Curator Hostetler indicated he needed to step down to accommodate work and home obligations. President Schmidl spoke with Rose Cravens and Cindy Owen, who both work under the Curator, and indicated that Cindy Owen would like to assume the role of Curator, a position appointed by the Executive Board. Treasurer Rapalyea moved to appoint Cindy Owen as Curator and Trustee Merwin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Curator Owen reported that she has already communicated with Curator Hostetler and previous Curator Denoncourt to learn the parameters of the position, and that the delicate portions of the collection have been removed from display to the climate-controlled portion of the Meetinghouse.

SHS Member's Book

Following the Annual Members Meeting, Sharyn Goddard volunteered to begin working on the 2025 *SHS Members Book*. She reported to the Executive Board that she has discovered that, beginning in January 2025, a new state law will make it illegal to release personal information to the public without each person's express permission, which would include components of the *Members Book* such as the Members List, the List of Round Robin participants, and the SHS Scholarship recipient. A robust discussion followed. Treasurer Rapalyea noted that "we could extend to new and existing members" [Dave, those are my cryptic notes I'll call you on this to clarify it] and Member Goddard indicated that her survey of annual reports and other such publications by local historical societies do not include members lists. While many members recognized the weight of the loss of such information on the *Members Book*, which many use as a local telephone book, it was decided that the format should be modified to eliminate the Members List and the List of Round Robin participants, and that the Scholarship Committee should make it clear to the scholarship recipient that a condition of accepting the scholarship is to allow the SHS to include their biography, photograph, and essay in the *Members Book*. In addition, President Schmidl asked all the Executive Board, Trustees, and Committee Chairs for permission to post their names and contact information in the *Members Book*. Those present unanimously agreed.

Member Goddard also informed the meeting that it is possible to assign generic email addresses to the SHS Executive Board, Trustees, and Committee Chairs that are associated with the www.salisburyHistoricalSociety.org domain. The meeting unanimously approved setting up those addresses and including them with the list of officers in the *Members Book*.

Finally, Member Goddard indicated she would need the President's Letter for the *Members Book*; President Schmidl said he would get started on it.

Kepper Rugs

President Schmidl reported his findings regarding the possible sale of additional Kepper Rugs. Of the 32 rugs received from the Kepper Trust, 21 have been sold or given to Kepper "family" members. Five of the remaining rugs are marked as "Keep" in the Accession Book, leaving only 6 rugs in question. Chair Cravens has done extensive research on the topic of "deaccessioning" items in the collection, summarized in an attachment to these minutes, which makes a strong case for not selling any more rugs.

President Schmidl indicated that it appears the issue has been decided based on the research and members opinions expressed at the Annual Members Meeting.

Membership

Chair Andrus indicated that she is ready to work with former Secretary Henry to develop a town-wide mailing to invite new members to join the SHS. She'd like to include both a letter (there is an example available from former secretary henry) and an insert that describes the SHS. We don't have the second item yet, but Member Goddard provided a copy of a draft trifold document that she has been working on for just such a purpose. President Schmidl inquired whether such a mailing could be sent via email, which would save postage, and also noted that we should wait until after the election, when the number of mass mailings coming to people would fall substantially. Chair Andrus indicated that she had mailing lists available that could be used for such a mailing.

Holiday Craft Fair

The Holiday Craft Fair will be held on December 7 & 14 from 9:00-2:00. It appears that we have coverage for both days. As usual, we'll set up the evening of December 6 at 5:00. Chair Cravens has been working with a local craftsperson (and new SHS member) Paula Gallion to produce wooden, laser-cut Christmas ornaments. President Schmidl has milled some local wood to use as raw material. Some prototypes have been produced and all were impressed with them.

Other Business

Treasurer Rapalyea indicated that he has received a bid of \$4,000 to scrape and paint the Hearse House.

Treasurer Rapalyea indicated that he has received a bid of \$150 to print 500 copies of a color, tri-fold pamphlet.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38.