

# **MONROE COUNTY MUSEUM SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

*Regular Meeting*

**Wednesday, November 18th – 6:30 pm**

Monroe County Museum – 126 South Monroe Street – Monroe, Michigan 48161

## **ELECTRONIC VIDEO/TELECONFERENCE VIA ZOOM**

This meeting will be held using remote participation via Zoom.

Public Comments may be submitted to the Monroe County Museum System Director Andrew Clark at [andy\\_clark@monroemi.org](mailto:andy_clark@monroemi.org) until 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 18th to be included as part of the public record for this meeting. Click [here](#) for the required format.

**You are invited to a Zoom webinar.**

**When: Nov 18, 2020 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

**Topic: Monroe County Museum System Board of Trustees**

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89161886141?pwd=NnZrZU9zd2RSTE1idVVXNndaM0IBUT09>

**Passcode: museum**

Or iPhone one-tap :

US:

+13126266799,,89161886141#,,,,,0#,,796761#

or +16465588656,,89161886141#,,,,,0#,,796761#

**Or Telephone:**

**Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):**

US:

+1 301 715 8592 (Maryland) or

+1 312 626 6799 (Illinois) or

+1 646 558 8656 (New York) or

+1 253 215 8782 (Washington) or

+1 346 248 7799 (Texas) or

+1 669 900 9128 (California)

**Webinar ID: 891 6188 6141**

**Passcode: 796761**

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## AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting of October 14th, 2020
5. Public Comment
6. Committee Updates
  - 6.1. Executive Committee
  - 6.2. Awards Committee
  - 6.3. Markers Committee
  - 6.4. Projects Committee
    - 6.4.1. Fall Disbursement Award Recommendations
7. New Business
  - 7.1. Museum Reports
  - 7.2. Presentation from Deputy Director JJ Przewozniak regarding the MCMS's forthcoming mobile application
  - 7.3. December meeting
8. Old Business
9. Public Comment
10. Board Comments
11. Adjournment

**Next Meeting:** TBA

<b>2020 MONROE COUNTY MUSEUM SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES</b>	<b>2020 COMMITTEES</b>
Chair: Brian Egen, District 6 Vice-Chair: Jeremy Potter, District 1 Secretary: Thomas Heywood, District 2 Trustee: Mary Strevel, District 3 Trustee: L William Conner, District 4 Trustee: Richard Micka, District 5 Trustee: Tony Trujillo, District 7 Trustee: Michael Humphries, District 8 Trustee: Nicholas Guthrie, District 9 Immediate Past Chair: Hobby Nels Trustee Emeritus: Richard Sieb	<b>Executive Committee</b> Chair: Brian Egen Members: Jeremy Potter, Thomas Heywood, Hobby Nels, Andrew Clark, and JJ Przewozniak <b>Awards Committee</b> Chair: Mary Strevel Members: Tony Trujillo, Thomas Heywood, and Andrew Clark <b>Markers Committee</b> Chair: Jeremy Potter Members: Brian Egen, Nicholas Guthrie, Michael Humphries, Lynn Reaume, and Andrew Clark <b>Projects Committee</b> Chair: Michael Humphries Members: Bill Conner, Brian Egen, Tony Trujillo, and Andrew Clark

### **Mission Statement of the Monroe County Museum System**

At the Monroe County Museum, we fuel and cultivate our visitors' curiosity through the exploration of Monroe County's rich and varied stories, joining together to unearth meaning and illuminate relevant connections between the past, present, and future.

MONROE COUNTY HISTORICAL BOARD of TRUSTEES  
MEETING MINUTES  
October 14th, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in-person at the museum and via Zoom

Present: Brian Egen, Chairman	Jeremy Potter, Vice-Chairman	Tom Heywood, Secretary
William Conner, Member	Nick Guthrie, Member	Michael Humphries, Member
Richard Micka, Member	Hobby Nels, Past Chairman	Richard Sieb, Emeritus
Mary Strevel, Member	Tony Trujillo, Member	

Museum Staff: Andy Clark, Director      J.J. Przewozniak, Deputy Director  
Lynn Reaume, County Historian

Guests: none

This meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. and audible roll was taken. There was a quorum and COVID protocol was followed.

Motion was made by W. Conner to accept the meeting agenda, seconded by M. Humphries. Audible roll vote was called and the measure passed.

Motion was made by R. Sieb to approve the September, 2020 meeting minutes, seconded by W. Conner. Audible roll vote was called and passed.

Public Comment #1: none via internet.

Executive: Chairman Egen said there has been no new meeting of the group.

Awards Committee: M. Strevel said a Press Release will be coming out soon. The honor was Mrs. Meg Heinlen will be out for this year, the others will be added to the 2021 event. The awards have not been yet ordered.

Markers Committee: The refurbished Hull Road marker has been installed at Price's Orchard on North Dixie Highway. Saturday will be the Prohibition marker unveiling at the Newport library. Plans are to pull the 3 Dundee markers, the Toledo War, Liberty Corners and the Potters Field markers for winter work at Sewah. The four at the Elm and North Monroe Street corner is also being considered.

In regard to the new logo, it was suggested that a logo "shield" of some kind be attached to the markers being refurbished to make them part of this program. It is unlikely that the logo medallion at the top can be removed and the new one added. M. Strevel asked that the whole commission be informed when there is a significant unveiling of the markers. W. Conner suggested a Press Release to the media when one has happened or will happen. The refurbishment also provides the opportunity to relocate markers to better sites.

Projects Committee: After some discussion motion was made by J. Potter to extend the application deadline to November 7<sup>th</sup> to allow groups more time to organize their applications; seconded by N. Guthrie and audible roll was taken and the motion passed unanimously. It was noted that the city of Monroe has spent the money on Memorial Place but the contractor has not fully finished the project; this is projected for spring 2021. No other funds are needed.

New Business: Museum Report: Motion was made by N. Guthrie to accept the report as presented; seconded by H. Nels with audible roll called and it passed unanimously.

November Meeting: Due to consideration to the Grant Projects committee to meet and recommend, a later date was chosen- November 18<sup>th</sup>- at 6:30. Director Clark was unsure of the in-person or Zoom format for that meeting.

Old Business: Director Clark said the Monroe Mayor Robert Clark approached the museum for their interest for a discovery session concerning the Custer Statue. As of this date nothing solid has been developed. Discussion on the subject included the need for education on what the statue represents, information on things broader than Custer, perhaps columns in the newspaper, more interpretation including different historical markers. The group are interested in this topic.

Public Comment #2: none via the internet.

Commissioner comments: The group were interested in meeting in-person and other members liked the remote meeting option. It was agreed that the museum/commission has made good progress in spite of the health situation of COVID.

M. Humphries said that something will probably be presented next meeting on the millage outlook.

Many of the commissioners have been used for the filming of the museum promotional video.

With no other business, motion was made by W. Conner to adjourn, seconded by H. Nels and with unanimous voice roll the meeting was ended at 6:53 p.m.

Lynn W. Reaume  
Acting recording secretary  
15 October 2020

## **MONROE COUNTY MUSEUM SYSTEM**

### **Director's Report**

Submitted by Andrew Clark, Director

Wednesday, November 18th, 2020

### **COVID-19 Organizational Operations**

Public access to the galleries at the County Museum are restricted to Thursdays through Saturdays, 10 am to 5 pm, and Sundays, 12 pm to 5 pm. Public access to the County Archives is currently prohibited though research assistance is still being conducted by mail, email, and phone. The grounds of Territorial Park and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Museum are open but the buildings remain closed. St Antoine's is not impacted by any COVID-19 restrictions.

Staff members continue their hybrid work schedules.

### **Maintenance and Operations**

#### *Museum and Archives*

There are no significant museum maintenance projects to report.

Many thanks to Lynn and her Local History Division staff for their work incorporating the Eby Log House and Papermill Schoolhouse items into our storage areas and to Gerry and the Exhibits Division staff for arranging what remained into our open storage exhibit in the second floor temporary gallery.

#### *Territorial Park*

There will be no significant work conducted on Papermill School this year. The contractor has boarded up the windows in order to begin removal and restoration of the windows in their shop over the winter.

Mike has started the process of dismantling the Papermill School fence for redeployment around the orchard and in front of the schoolhouse. Where fence has been removed, we will replace with a limestone block border no later than Spring 2021.

Kudos to JJ and his Programs Division staff for their work cleaning out the cellar of the Trading Post. I believe the task would qualify as the thirteenth labor of Hercules.

### **Eby Log House**

Nothing of note to report in regards to Eby developments at the time of this writing. The historical society continues to conduct their work on the site.

### **Historical Projects Fund**

Two applications were received for the Fall cycle of the Historical Projects Fund. The first application requesting \$6,000 was received from Bedford Township for restoration work on Banner Oak School and the second application for \$3,465 was received from the Old Mill Museum for electrical upgrades.

### **Markers Program**

The Berlin Charter Township Historical Society hosted the unveiling of the Prohibition marker on Saturday, October 17th. The event was attended by about thirty members of the community including Chairman Egen, Vice-Chairman Potter, Trustee Strevel, County Historian Reaume, and yours truly. This marker joins St Antoine as the second marker featuring the new seal and with the reinstallation of the Old Hull Road marker it is the third installation for 2020.

Working with our Operations Attendant Mike Nelligan, the following county historical markers were removed as part of the historical marker refurbishment program:

Bedford, Township  
*Liberty Corners Church* (Corner of Sterns and Jackman)

Dundee, Village  
*Hub of the Highways* (triangle park)  
*Dundee's Old Mill* (in front of Old Mill)  
*Macon Indian Reserve* (414 E Main)

Erie, Township  
*War with a Happy Ending* (9061 S Dixie)

Monroe, City  
*St Mary's* (St Mary's Church)  
*Historic River Raisin* (Monroe Street bridge)  
*Masonry in Monroe* (Masonic Temple)  
*Custer Marker* (Custer Statue)

Monroe, Township  
*The Potter's Field* (near MCCC)

As is usual, it seemed each marker presented its own unique challenge for removal. Fortunately, Mike added a car jack to our arsenal of removal tools that proved immensely helpful. Though we had given notification of the project at least a week before, we were challenged twice about what we were doing. The first instance was in-person by a neighbor that thought we were stealing the Toledo War marker and the second was after the fact by the community college.

### **Counter**

Mike installed the post for a vehicle counter at the exit of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Museum. Once I have the counter unit initialized – which I expect to have done in the next week or two, we'll be able to begin including visitation numbers to that site in our December reports.

### **Personnel Updates**

There are no personnel updates at this time.

**Upcoming Closures**

Aside from the continued closures on Mondays through Wednesdays due to the pandemic, the next planned closures of the MCMS are Thursday, November 26th and Friday, November 27th for the Thanksgiving holiday.

**Programs**

Unless you are suffering from Zoom fatigue (which is certainly understandable), please join us for our Online Speaker Series. Please visit [https://www.co.monroe.mi.us/officials and departments/departments/museum/speaker\\_series.php](https://www.co.monroe.mi.us/officials_and_departments/departments/museum/speaker_series.php) for the full listing.

## MONROE COUNTY MUSEUM SYSTEM

Deputy Director's Report Submitted by Jeffrey J. (JJ) Przewozniak

Friday, November 13, 2020

**RRTP:** Prioritized work continues with renewed intensity due the looming threat of winter. Hallmarks of this work include removal of rotten/potentially hazardous/useless detritus, general cleaning, and overall detailed organizing, all of which constitutes a wide variety of staff hours. In October, the entire basement of the Navarre house was cleared of garbage. The accumulated cornucopia of soggy schmutz was enough to fill a 20-yard dumpster. I'd like to recognize the efforts of Lisa Gessner, Mike Nelligan, and Heather Piegza for their efforts to accomplish this considerable task.

We await the delivery of period-appropriate lumber so we can build new barn ramps that can support the weight of draft animals/small vehicles. Other heavy equipment work continues to be coordinated with the County. Details of work plans for the remainder of the season are available upon request.

**Digital Tours:** Much work has been done to accelerate this crucial aspect of MCMS public offerings. After much hoop-jumping, developer accounts have been created with Google Play and the App Store, thanks to the invaluable assistance of Colleen Hinzmann of County IT. I'm happy to report that the several of months of working with the Stqry (OnCell) have resulted in two crucial elements: 1) a considerable degree of platform dexterity among MCMS staff users/developers; and 2) a similarly considerable degree of new interpretation strategy, regarding the shaping of old MCMS program material into user-friendly, attractive, and results-centered learning packages. Strategies for releasing it to the public, and regular updates/development are currently under discussion. A "soft release" to the public seems to be the best strategy at this point.

**Holiday Programming:** Inter-departmental work related to *Christmas at the Monroe County Museum*, continues with great success. This multi-faceted celebration requires the investment of every person at MCMS. I'm inspired to see all individuals making valuable contributions, and happy to play a helping role. Following a coordinated and intense effort, and considering the current health situation, I'm pleased to see cooperative and confusion-free engagement by the public. More details can be found in others' monthly reports.

**Fall/Winter Speaker Series:** Substantial work has been invested in sculpting the 2020-2021 Speaker Series. The project was executed in multiple phases, with coordinated cooperation, to result in a fully operational program series. The first step was to search out a list of desirable speakers, whose work is consistent with MCMS messaging and pertinent to popular topics/local interest in history. Care was taken to select individuals with upcoming book releases, or other similar newsworthy projects. Distinctive efforts throughout this project include: the creation of contracts for services, the leveraging and coordination all MCMS media platforms, and the creation of a an evolving distribution list that at present includes over 1,200 email recipients, including every college and university in Michigan, every historical society, every public library, pertinent local and statewide media outlets, and many others.

### **Miscellany:**

- Full implementation of the *Libib* library cataloging system will proceed in full after execution of priority tasks related to *Christmas at the Monroe County Museum*, and outdoor projects at RRTP.
- Discussion ensues on strategies/options at hand for an improved, comprehensive maple sugaring program in spring 2021. A survey of maple trees was conducted and is on file for reference.
- I'm happy to report the start of a meaningful connection between MCMS and Fort Meigs through a series of meetings and professional exchanges with FM's executive Director & staff.
- I'd like to recognize Geoff Hoerauf for the donation of a collection of reproduction early 19<sup>th</sup>-c. clothing and accoutrements, gifted in memory of Ron and Pat Griem.



LOCAL HISTORY DIVISION Report  
For October, 2020

The research room was not open to the public in October.

Rachel processed obituary requests for 21 individuals, with 82 obits. She handled 7 phone calls and 12 emails. She has been doing the data entry for obituaries and making database corrections.

Robert handled 20 outside calls and 24 emails. He continues to monitor the humidity levels and temperatures for storage rooms. He had been quarantined from 10/2 to 10/8 but tested negative so he is back at work in the office.

He and I processed accessions and FIC items 2020.0.215-222. These items included scrapbooks, button pins, and the cutter (sleigh) 2020.0.217 which is now atop the foyer.

October Accessions:

- 2020.35 Thelma Moyers: Her vintage Camp Fire Girls costume, Gearhart drafting tools
- 2020.36 J.J. Przewozniak: political poster on Gov. Whitmer
- 2020.37 L. Reaume: handmade PPE fabric masks, paper menu, stimulus check letter
- 2020.38 Linda Plotinski: church commemorative plate, 1972 school bond, Lietzka diploma
- 2020.39 Andrea LaBo: 3 different bear mugs made by "Aunt Bett"
- 2020.40 Jackie & David Steinman: instructional & childrens' books, mostly Steinman family
- 2020.41 Alice Kostoff: 2020 commemoratives for First Presbyterian church
- 2020.42 Kay Gelvin: 5 beautiful scrapbooks on the life of "Aunt Bett"
- 2020.43 Rick Grassley: records from Monroe Twp. Strasburg school

My October projects: processing the Eby cabin conglomerate in the gallery; processing more old Abstracts; doing research on Kausler Island, Papermill school, misc. buildings, and every little thing. Also fighting with my computer, scanner, plugs, you name it.

The Friends in Council committee came in October 14<sup>th</sup> (with PPE) to access their items which are in limbo for us- neither official loan, nor donation. I have answered their questions and await their answer as to the status of the collection. We no longer have space nor the responsibility to house items not ours except for official loan, as in exhibit. I have yet to find AAUW, BPW and Altrusa officials to handle their limbo items.

The Sept/Oct. issue of "Michigan History" featured "The Negro Traveler Green Book" which intrigued me, since the map showed a listing in Erie. I was able to view the magazines online and copied the pertinent pages for the Erie Kirkwood Hotel on Telegraph as a safe place to stop.

I continue to work from home 2 days a week and Facebook post. October Facebook reach for Collections was 8486; Historical Marker posts: Hull 1216, Berlin 1041, St. Antoine 323.

County website Obituary search #1 with 11,915 page views of 2,378 unique page views; the Museum was #37 with 557 page views.

With so much to do,

Lynn W. Reaume, County Historian  
03 November 2020

# Monroe County Museum System Board of Trustees

## October 2020 Museum Exhibits Report

Fall is the time for nature to prepare for the upcoming winter. The Red Squirrel begins laying away his stock of walnuts well before the leaves fall and the Woolly Bear caterpillar seeks her under-bark refuge months in advance of the first snowflakes. So naturally, the museum exhibits staff spent the early part of the month squirreling away on late fall and winter concerns long before pumpkin spices filled the air or the first chorus of “Jingle Bells” assaulted our ears.

Tapping into the witching season, large silhouettes of four traditional “monsters” of local lore (Loup Garou, Lutin, Monroe Monster, Michipishu) were projected onto the large arched windows facing Monroe Street. The images were shown nightly for two weeks prior to Halloween. Accompanying Facebook postings revealed identity clues and the final reveal was on Halloween day. Simple, yet spooky.


A major amount of planning and execution went into Christmas issues. A “Letters to Santa” campaign required a festive mail slot design, and designs for letterheads and form letters for Timmy to ask the jolly old elf for a new Pacific Blue Apple iPhone 12 Pro Max with 512 GB memory and a 6.7 in. Super Retina XDR display. The point, of course, is to re-introduce kids into the idea of writing letters and “posting” them like folks did when Apples only grew on trees.

The two “outer” Monroe Street windows will be fitted with huge 7 ft. by 14 ft. “Christmas at the Museum” banners. The design of these banners makes use of vintage photos from the museum collection and are based on the actual appearance of our elegant windows. We spent a considerable amount of time tweaking the designs and getting them into final format. Replacement winter-themed banners will replace these in early January after Timmy ends up receiving a lump of coal in his stocking – a “gift” from the earth much more valuable than any iPhone.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gerald P. Wykes  
Exhibits Coordinator



November 2nd, 2020

**Monroe County Museum System Board of Trustees**  
Guest Services Division Report  October 2020

During the first weekend of the month, I 'attended' along with several other staffers the virtual Historical Society of Michigan Conference. Though the physical aspect was missed, they did a fine job converting their lecturers and vendors to a digital platform. Over the course of Saturday, I attended 4 separate sessions: "Faded Glory: Saving Michigan's Civil War Battle Flags", "Indigenous Astronomy: Star Knowledge, Sky Stories and Science of the Potawatomi", "The Power of the Black Imaginary: Afrofuturism and Comics" and "A Place for Her: 150 Years of Women at MSU".

The other portions of the month were populated with my usual duties, including invoice processing, supply ordering and the miscellany that accompanies any workday. I was able to 'process' my first bout of Petty Cash, however, and continue to learn the intricacies of County finance and FASBE. Everyone continues to be tremendously patient and helpful which I will be perpetually grateful for.

Towards the middle of the month, Lisa Gessner of the Programs Division and myself met at the request of Deputy Director JJ to discuss Christmas at the Museum 2020. We spent a fair amount of time reviewing last year's entry form, plotting out deadlines, and highlighting potential areas of concern in regards to the COVID safety protocols we've put in place. We came away with a more clarified game plan, and consulted frequently with Andy and JJ to get their feedback. Presently, we are co-authoring a staff document for use in the future and amongst new staffers. It will include the location of decorations, traditional methods of set-up, and how to properly register and or check in groups as they arrive. I also submitted several options for a Christmas tree, one of which was approved by Andy and ordered in the past few days.

As we continue to prepare for Christmas, I have also kept Ann updated on the current plan, emphasizing that the Guest Services Division will help in whatever capacity is appropriate and timely-which in this case could mean a host of fun and seasonal tasks!

Submitted by Megan Mullins, Guest Services Coordinator