

MONROE COUNTY MUSEUM SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Organizational Meeting

Tuesday, January 26, 2021 – 6.00 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 until 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 10th to be included as part of the public record for this meeting. Click [here](#) for the required format.

Zoom Webinar Details

When: Feb 10, 2021 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Monroe County Museum System - February Meeting

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88901313092?pwd=a0NhTmNab1R0TGlrY2krM0ZLUFBFUT09>

Passcode: 042737

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US:

+13126266799,,88901313092#,,,,*042737# or

+16465588656,,88901313092#,,,,*042737#

Or Telephone:

US: +1 312 626 6799

Webinar ID: 889 0131 3092

Passcode: 042737

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes from Organizational Meeting of January 26, 2021
5. Public Comment
6. Committee Updates
 - 6.1. Executive Committee
 - 6.2. Awards Committee
 - 6.3. Markers Committee
 - 6.4. Projects Committee
7. New Business
 - 7.1. Museum Staff Reports
 - 7.1.1. Deaccession request by County Historian Lynn Reaume of donations 74.6.12.1 and 76.9.3.1, surplus magazines (Please see request in Local History Division's February Report).
 - 7.2. Millage Update
8. Old Business
9. Public Comment
10. Board Comments
11. Adjournment

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 10th at 6 pm via Zoom

2021 MONROE COUNTY MUSEUM SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES	2021 COMMITTEES
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: Nick Guthrie, District 9 Immediate Past Chair: Hobby Nels Trustee Emeritus: Richard Sieb	Executive Committee Chair: Brian Egen Members: Jeremy Potter, Thomas Heywood, Hobby Nels, Andrew Clark, and JJ Przewozniak Awards Committee Chair: Mary Strevel Members: Tony Trujillo, Thomas Heywood, and Andrew Clark Markers Committee Chair: Jeremy Potter Members: Brian Egen, Nicholas Guthrie, Michael Humphries, Lynn Reaume, and Andrew Clark Projects Committee 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 System Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2021 at 6:00p.m. via Zoom

Members present: Brian Egen, Jeremy Potter, Tom Heywood, Michael Humphries, Mary Strevel, Richard Micka, Tony Trujillo, and Hobby Nels

Member excused: Nick Guthrie, Richard Sieb, and Bill Conner

Museum Staff: Andy Clark (Director), JJ. Przewozniak (Deputy Director)

Guests: none

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by A. Clark. There was an audible roll taken and a quorum was present

Motion was made by T. Heywood to accept the agenda. seconded by R. Micka. An audible roll vote was called and passed.

The election of officers and the Trustee Emeritus selection were next. By a motion made by M. Humphries and seconded by T. Trujillo a slate was presented. The slate was comprised of B. Egen as Chair, J. Potter as Vice Chair, and T. Heywood as Secretary. No other nominations were made. An audible roll vote was taken and passed.

There was a motion made by J. Potter to name Richard Sieb as Trustee Emeritus, seconded by R. Micka. An audible roll vote was taken and passed.

J. Potter moved that the minutes of the November, 2020 meeting be approved, seconded by R. Micka. An audible roll vote was taken and passed.

B. Egen assumed the Chair. He announced that without objection the Committee assignments would remain the same as 2020.

There was no public comment during the first period.

Committee updates:

Executive--no report

Awards---Chair Mary Strevel announced that this year's nominating forms would be out in the summer and that they are planing an event next fall to honor both the 2020 and the 2021 Award winners.

Markers--Chair J. Potter reported that there are five current markers in planning. Two new ones for Cuncanon and the German POWs of WWII. And three old ones which need both renewal and rewording. Tony Trujillo pointed out that the downtown marker removed by the City must now be replaced according to the new downtown streetscape plan. Both Jeremy and Brian assured Tony that they would look into it.

Projects--Chair M. Humphries asked the Board to approve the Spring 2021 Application. A motion was made by T. Heywood to approve the application form, seconded by M. Humphries. An audible roll vote was taken and passed.

New Business: Museum report. Motion was made by M. Humphries to accept the report, seconded by T. Heywood. An audible roll vote was taken and passed.

Millage Chair M. Humphries reported that he is planning on meeting with every County Commissioner by next Tuesday to inform them of the rationale behind our .15 renewal request. He, Brian, and JJ showed electronically the ten year plan we plan to give the Commissioners and other county opinion leaders by May. We plan to be on the ballot with the ISD Technology request on the 4th of May.

There were no public comments during the second period where they can be made.

Trustee comments:

Jeremy and Tom both stated how happy they are to be working with the same "Team".

Mary Strevel complimented Brian, Andy, and JJ on the professional looking ten year printed plan.

Tony Trujillo said he was extremely pleased by all the work.

Michael Humphries expressed his honor at being chosen by the Board to head the Campaign.

Hobby Nels stated that we all should be proud of the work we have done together.

JJ asked for help getting more maple trees to tap.

Brian thanked every Trustee and every staff member for their commitment to the future of the Museum.

The meeting adjourned at 7:36.

Tom Heywood

Secretary

MONROE COUNTY MUSEUM SYSTEM

Director's Report

Submitted by Andrew Clark, Director

Wednesday, February 10, 2021

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.

Millage Renewal Updates

At the Tuesday, February 2d meeting of the Monroe County Board of Commissioners, MCMS Chair Brian Egen and I gave a brief presentation regarding our millage renewal and increase request and the strategic plan. Following our presentation, the Board of Commissioners approved the resolution 9-0 and ballot language for us to be included on the May 4, 2021 election.

The final ballot language is attached to my report.

MCMS By Laws and Ordinance

Previously mentioned in January report. Will be on March agenda instead of February's.

Digital Michigan Newspaper Grant Program

I am preparing an application to participate in the 2021 Digital Michigan Newspaper Grant Program coordinated by the Clarke Historical Library of Central Michigan University. If selected, we will be able to have 10,000 pages of a local newspaper scanned and placed online for researchers. As Monroe County is not presently represented, I believe we may have a fair chance.

Maintenance and Operations

Museum and Archives

A sewer gas issue that has been plaguing the MCM appears to have been resolved. County maintenance is undertaking maintenance work on the boiler. Temperatures in the museum and archives storage areas continue to be warmer than best practices as boiler heat does not seem to be as precise as forced air; seeking remedies to improve the situation. Museum maintenance staffer Mike Nelligan will be painting the bathrooms over the next few weeks.

Territorial Park

Please reference Deputy Director Przewozniak's report of current projects.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Museum

There are no significant maintenance projects to report.

St Antoine's Historic Site

There are no significant maintenance projects to report.

Historical Projects Fund

Slight delay in posting application for graphic improvements. Will be posted this week on MCMS website and distributed to local history organizations and local units of government.

Markers Program

It appears that we may have found a solution for replacing the seals on old historical markers. In consultation with former museum director Matt Switlik, he suggested two potential foundries (one in Michigan and one in Ohio) that are capable of producing a seal to cover up any old seals. From experience, he advised against mounting anything to the posts.

Due to a scheduling conflict, the historical markers will be transported to Marietta later this month.

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 closure of the MCMS is Monday, February 15th for Presidents' Day.

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, MICHIGAN
MONROE COUNTY MUSEUM SYSTEM
FUNDING RENEWAL AND INCREASE PROPOSAL
MAY 4, 2021 COUNTY ELECTION**

Shall the Monroe County Museum System Funding millage which will expire after the tax collections in 2021 be renewed for 0.10 mills and increased by 0.05 mills in accordance with the tax rate limitation imposed under Article IX, Section 6, of the Constitution of the State of Michigan of 1963, such that the County of Monroe be authorized to levy up to 0.15 mills (\$0.15 per \$1,000.00 of taxable valuation, as finally equalized), upon the taxable real and tangible personal property within the County of Monroe, Michigan, for a period of ten (10) years, from 2022 through 2031, both inclusive, for the purpose of providing funding for maintenance, operations, staffing, capital improvements, and for general programs, and for County outreach programs, and for grants, to further the preservation and display of historical artifacts in Monroe County, and for possible partnering with the federal or Michigan governments, all to best use the Monroe County Museum System and the County's historical artifacts, and to promote its programs, for the benefit of the citizens of Monroe County? The estimated revenue for the first year of the levy, if approved and levied in its entirety, shall be \$991,500.00.

YES

NO

MONROE COUNTY MUSEUM SYSTEM

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

Friday, February 5, 2021

RRTP: The debris piles at the east end of the property have been disposed of—nothing was spared. Most of the debris consisted of unusable pressure-treated and/or rotten wood, and broken fencing. Following the cleaning of the basements and barn in the summer/fall, this was the last of the major heavy cleanup efforts at RRTP. As such, the dumpster is scheduled for removal. Hooray! Many thanks to all staff who have helped.

High posts have been harvested from the great northern hinterland and sunk in the ground for two fire pits in preparation for maple sugaring. The large fire wood pile outside the barn is currently getting re-established.

Gearing up: The MCMS Resource Library organization has begun! Programs division staff have been hard at work cataloging the many volumes in our collection. Work is methodical as the titles in our collections are reviewed and properly entered into our online database.

Re-assessment of the teacher kits in our inventory has started. Several kits have been updated, and soon, all will undergo a comprehensive assessment of reflectivity to current educational standards.

Data from the last several years of museum reports has been assembled to get an idea of history and trends of our interaction with area schools. The revelations will factor into new approaches toward schools in Monroe County.

Fall/Winter Speaker Series: As expected, the *Online Speaker Series* has continues to ascend in popularity. In January, we hosted three speakers, including our headliner Peter Cozzens, and local historian and former MCMS affiliate Joe Boggs. Together with James Carl Nelson, the three authors established much connective tissue between Monroe's history and major movements in US history, offering presentations on Tecumseh and his brother Tenskwatawa, Prohibition along the Detroit-Toledo-Windsor corridor, and Polar Bear Expedition of 1918-1919.

Miscellany:

- A local, experienced person has agreed to restore our mule to working order.
- It's been a privilege to participate in the artistic development of the Strategic Plan.
- Overall chores at RRTP continue, but at a slower pace due to the cold.
- Andy and I attended the River Raisin Battle commemoration on January 23rd.

LOCAL HISTORY DIVISION Report
For January, 2021

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

Rachel processed obituary requests for 9 individuals, with 87 obits. She handled 5 phone calls and 30 emails. She has been doing the data entry for obituaries and making database corrections.

Robert handled 11 outside calls and 70 emails. He transported FIC stone tools to the Port Huron Museum collection (they had not been accessioned and were noted as found there.) He monitors the storage rooms, handles most donation inquiries, and is adding to the Monroe Clubs finding aid which needs an overhaul. Many of the files/boxes in Archives have not been updated or evaluated since they were processed (if they were.)

January Accessions:

- 2021.1 Judith Maupin: crocheted bedspread; memo by Dr. Barker
- 2021.2 Dennis Au: stickers, Trinity Lutheran church items, county maps, etc.
- 2021.3 Mary-Eileen McClear: SMA Alumnae card, 1905
- 2021.4 Frank Neikirk: MAECO items included model truck and lighters
- 2021.5 Michael McCloy: FIC Roberts genealogy
- 2021.6 St. Antoine historical marker
- 2021.7 Martha Churchill: electronic files relating to Dundee & Milan areas

My January projects: weeks of finding and processing into the collection binders, photographs, papers, files from photographer Everette Payette. They had been in the attic space and had to be gone through and all the photographs removed from the paper and added into PastPerfect. Newspaper clippings were incorporated into the topical files and other files as needed. Some had accession numbers, most did not and it was impossible to tell when they came in to the museum. Topics included aviation, bridges in the city and county, roads, mills and paper mills.

I updated the following Finding Guides on River Raisin Battlefield, Camp Fire Girls, Deeds, Mortgages & Abstracts, Mercy-Memorial Hospital, Monroe County Courts Misc., Monroe County Government, Monroe County Medical Society, Red Cross, and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) collections.

Deaccession request of 54 obsolete D.A.R. magazines from the 1960s and 1970s; 74.6.12.1 of Edna Toburen and 76.9.3.1 of Margaret Pyle. Both women were members of the DAR and donated these to the Museum. We have many obsolete periodicals that should be recycled. I have gone through each issue and kept 2, only 1 mentioning Monroe county. They will be recycled.

The Friends in Council committee have not made a decision on their collection and we are still waiting for some outstanding Loan Agreements to be received.

The Obituary search was #6 (after COVID and health related topics) with 12,136 page views (the lowest position it's ever been); the Museum was #30 with 964 page views.

Due to my mother's death this month, I am a little behind in clearing my mind. Thank you for your condolences.

Lynn W. Reaume, County Historian
31 January 2021

Monroe County Museum System Board of Trustees

January 2021 Museum Exhibits Report

Refurbishing the old Osgood Bass Drum case in the Upper Gallery proved to be an interesting exercise. Apart from the challenges of updating the old exhibit case with new internal structuring, damage repair and new paint, questions about the drum itself were generated. The old label suggested possible use in the Toledo War but there was nothing in the drum's background history to back that up other than the fact it existed at that time period. Quaintly labelled inside with a label "Maid 1835 by T. Osgood" the military style drum was made by Bedford area resident Theophilis Osgood. Family history says nothing of the Toledo War but proudly claims that Theophilis, his son Linus, and neighbor Cyrus Bradford paraded about southern Michigan and Northern Ohio to recruit soldiers for the Civil War. Theophilis tapped a self-made snare drum while Cyrus piped tunes on his fife. Linus beat upon the bass drum in our collection.

Because records indicate that those original drumsticks came into our possession along with the bass drum many years ago, the hunt was on to locate them. Thanks to the efforts of Robert they were found and now two of the three sticks are encased atop the drum. Leather covered beaters rarely survive along with their drums and now we have a complete story to tell.

We also produced and mounted the finished interpretive label for the Albany Cutter Sleigh displayed above the front door and Emily continued to work on graphics for lecture series promotional material and directional signage.

Assessment of LaPrad Cradleboard and the Hide dress once displayed on the plaster mannequin in the Native diorama also yielded some intriguing results. Space doesn't permit full discussion here. The cradleboard is still being processed, but the hide dress proves to be a "two-hide" Plains Indian, possibly Kiowa, and probably dates to the 1840-1860 range. With no donation history it remains an enigma, but it did reveal one fascinating hidden detail but I guess that will have to wait until next time.

Respectfully submitted,
Gerald P. Wykes
Exhibits Coordinator



February 7th, 2021

Monroe County Museum System Board of Trustees
Guest Services Division Report ☒ January 2021

I believe I welcomed January 2021 more than any other new year that I can recall in recent memory, both personally and professionally! I am genuinely optimistic that perhaps, in time, this year will help us return to some of our more familiar patterns as an institution/community.

With that said, I started the month working on the year end-report contained in your previous meeting packets. It was truly interesting, especially in regards to our digital engagements, to see some of the numbers that were generated from month to month and the behaviors that could have encouraged these changes. The seasonal Christmas data was especially illuminative given all of the adaptations that were made this year.

In speaking of Christmas, I was much appreciative (as I always am) to Programs for assisting in the closing out of wreath voting. With their help, the process was timely and accurate—certificates have been printed and distributed to those groups who've come in to retrieve their creations, and the overall reception of the changeover to "wreaths" only continues to be positive. Collectively, thoughts have already turned towards C@M 2021. The aforementioned hope is that things may be able to proceed more traditionally, but even if we have to continue with some of the changes we've made there are adjustments to be made for streamlining the process even further. Specifically, the Google Form worked well for the majority of our needs, but some of the behind-the-scenes features were not as customizable as we would like. We are also interested in finding additional lighting sources and elements to enhance the whimsy we attempted to cultivate this year.

To close on a reflective note, February will mark just about a year's time since I stepped into my role as GSC, and I can say without reservation that it has been a greatly fulfilling and I look forward to continuing to serve the MCMS to the best of my abilities.

Submitted by Megan Mullins, Guest Services Coordinator