

Minutes of the 2015 Fiscal Year Annual Meeting Monday, August 8, 2016

Board Chairman Elizabeth Beim called to order the 93rd annual meeting of the Martha's Vineyard Museum at 5:15 pm on Monday, August 8, 2016 at the former Marine Hospital and future site of the Museum in Vineyard Haven. Present were over 100 members and friends of the museum together with board, staff, and interns.

Beim opened by presenting the 2015 Annual Meeting minutes which were approved in a unanimous vote. Beim announced her stepping down and introduced Island resident Stever Aubrey, who will replace her on August 17th. Beim will continue to oversee the capital campaign with the board. Elizabeth took time to reflect on the progress of the Marine Hospital project over the last ten years. She praised the beautiful property, the vision of the project, and the staff hired to bring it to fruition. Beim announced that the public phase is now underway with new branding and promotional materials, presenting the new mission statement:

“The Martha's Vineyard Museum inspires all people to discover, explore, and strengthen their connections to this Island and its diverse heritage.”

The Museum endowment is at a half million dollars and expects a one to three match grant up to \$500,000 for education from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Marine Hospital's first phase of construction will begin in 2017, with projected completion in 2018. Another 2.5 million dollars must be raised by year end for this to happen. Beim called the audience to action in their continued financial support for the project and then introduced new director Phil Wallis.

Phil Wallis announced, “We are on the move.” Wallis called to attention highlights from the year of 2015. In 2015 we signed a three-year lease with the Morgan Learning Center thanks to the Beagary Charitable Trust. The education department collaborated with Head Start and the MV Community Services pre-Kindergarten programs. In 2015 the Museum began Museum Conversations, a senior citizen outreach program to 436 seniors and 3,000 schoolkids. In the exhibits and collections department, we published *Island Stories: Highlights from the Martha's Vineyard Museum* and produced eight new exhibits. We received a National Endowment for the Humanities three-to-one education endowment grant up to \$500,000 and secured funding from almost every town on the Island through Community Preservation Act funds. Wallis cited our mission, stating that “This project is all of us, this is the Island's museum.” In 2015, we partnered with the *Vineyard Gazette* in producing *Previews of the Past* historic videos and hosted the National Trust for Historic Preservation's visit. Finally, on December 31, 2015, Wallis received a phone call from Stever Aubrey about the Executive Director job opening, and on February 16th, he began as new Executive Director.

Dale Garth gave the 2015 Treasurer's Report. From the operational side, strong progress was made despite funding hits from the Gay Head Light move closure. The payroll benefit and taxes were at a 2.7% growth rate, and there was a surplus of \$44,000. The Capital Campaign includes a range of financial needs, including the development and relocation to the Marine Hospital, current support for operations,

transitional costs, and funds to build an endowment. Overall, \$3.1 million were raised. \$2.4 million of that was from contributions and pledges, and \$700,000 was from letters of intent and pledges. Our quiet phase totaled \$11.7 million in fund-raising. The Board approved a charter to manage the endowment and has selected an endowment investment board. Overall, the institution currently holds no debt and owns two large campuses with substantial real estate value in Vineyard Haven and Edgartown.

Marcia Cini gave the Governance Committee report. Lana Woods and Paul Schneider were announced as potential new Board Members and were endorsed and approved in a unanimous vote. Cini presented Skip Finley and David LeBreton for second term election, who were also both endorsed and approved in a unanimous vote. Cini announced the changes to by-laws around the new mission. The audience asked no questions and the by-laws were endorsed and approved in a unanimous vote.

Phil Wallis announced the recipients of the Martha's Vineyard Medal, which was created to honor leaders in the community who have demonstrated a strong commitment to preserving the history, arts, and culture of Martha's Vineyard. The recipients were:

- Len Butler presented by Richard Skidmore
- Robert S. Douglas presented by Denys Wortman
- Catherine "Kay" Mayhew presented by Anna Carringer

Phil Wallis invited the audience to join the Museum for a reception, which doubled as a celebration in honor of Elizabeth Beim's service as Board President.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julianna Flanders, Secretary