



**96th Annual Meeting Minutes  
August 20, 2018  
The Federated Church of Martha's Vineyard, Edgartown, MA**

Board Chairman Stever Aubrey called the meeting to order at 5:07 PM

**Chairman's Report – Stever Aubrey**

- I. Aubrey presented and called for a vote on the 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes. Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.
- II. Aubrey discussed the journey over the past year. Aubrey compared the Museum to a start-up that began in a garage that is now moving to the big leagues and the transformative process that has occurred. Aubrey emphasized his pride in all the Museum has and will accomplish.
  - i) Aubrey highlighted the opportunities created via the new campus focusing on accessibility and an increased ability to tell stories about the history and culture of Martha's Vineyard. He remarked on how the new campus will be a tremendous opportunity to grow and become a Museum for the entire Island.
  - ii) Aubrey discussed the history of the land around the Federated Church and the future of the Museum's current home as the Cooke House Gardens.
  - iii) Aubrey thanked the staff for their tireless work during this exciting but stressful time and thanked the Board of Directors for their passion and generosity towards the Museum and for their commitment to helping the organization, whether through time, donations, or ideas.
  - iv) Aubrey stated that we love this Island so much and we should make this new Museum something that will attract people and make them feel how we feel about this Island.
  - v) Aubrey gave shout-outs to specific Board members who were leaving the Board following two consecutive terms (Bob Blacklow, Dale Garth, Phoebe Lewis, Calvin Linnemann, Chris Morse, June Manning, and Denys Wortman) and thanked them for their contributions during this transition.
  - vi) Aubrey noted that we are still climbing the mountain in regards to the Capital Campaign. Additional funding is still needed.

**Executive Director's Report – Phil Wallis**

- III. Wallis thanked the Board and Staff for their tremendous help and patience and discussed highlights of the past year:
  - i) Five months meeting with the Martha's Vineyard Commission about the new campus was arduous but important work as it is crucial we hear from the Community and understand any concerns they may have.
  - ii) The Board of Directors voting to approve the project was a big deal and was the decision that sent us into our next destiny.
  - iii) Appreciation given to Chief Curator, Bonnie Stacy, for heading the strategic plan which was a tremendous amount of work for 3-6 months.
  - iv) Education Director, Ann DuCharme, continued to spearhead our education program. The Education Department partnered with other Island organizations to develop new curriculum..

- v) Exhibit and Programming highlights included PechaKucha, acquiring new whaling logbooks, digitizing all whaling logbooks, adding 18 new interviews to oral history, a 23% increase in Research Library visits, changing the Dukes County Intelligencer to the MVM Quarterly and giving it a much-needed face-lift.
- vi) Campaign highlight was hitting the \$20 million benchmark for the Capital Campaign.

### **Treasurer's Report - Dale Garth**

- vii) It was a tremendous financial and strategic choice to move to the new campus.
- viii) The past year has showed solid growth in admission and events attendance.
- ix) The budget is operating with a surplus of \$40,000 for the year.
- x) Garth focused on the construction project budget. The budget goal in cash and pledges is \$31 million. Pending the sale of the Edgartown properties, \$25 million will have been raised so we still need \$6 million. Cape Cod 5 has given us a \$6 million line of credit with a fixed rate. In Spring 2018 we increased that line to \$10 million to address short term needs. 2017 did not pull from that line of credit. There will be no outstanding debt when the project is complete. Consigli Construction is operating on an \$18 million budget for completion of the new campus. Hazardous demolition of the 1938 brick building and archeological surveillance of the site occurred in Fall 2017. Currently, we are working towards building the endowment. It was \$1.7 million in 2017 and is now \$2 million; we aim to have an endowment of \$3.7 million by the end of the campaign. Our portfolio is low risk and is managed by Vanguard.
- xi) In 2018 we purchased 212 Skiff Avenue in Vineyard Haven to address collection storage concerns. The funding for this was provided by two donors. Another generous donor gave us funding to purchase 200 Skiff Avenue in Vineyard Haven, 212's neighbor. The house is condemned and the current plan is to tear it down.
- xii) Garth then spoke about the Cooke House Legacy Gardens which will be built on the remaining Edgartown Campus. There is a group of people in Edgartown working with the Museum to realize this project.
- xiii) Garth closed by discussing the Museum's intention to become self-sustaining and less reliant on annual fundraising, especially for general operational costs.

### **Governance Committee Report – David LeBreton**

- IV. LeBreton thanked everyone, specifically the Board of Directors for their dedication and passion. He too thanked the outgoing Board Members. LeBreton stated that these Board Members have worked very hard, have great pride in the Museum, and their insights have gotten us this far. LeBreton specifically highlighted Blacklow's place on the Governance Committee and the important and continued role he will play.
- V. LeBreton listed the new Board Members who are up for election for their first term: Marcia Mulford Cini, S. Fain Hackney, David Lewis, Jim Newman, James B. Richardson, III, and Elizabeth Hawes Weinstock. The Board voted on the new members and there was no opposition. The new members were approved by membership.
- VI. LeBreton listed the Board Members up for election for their second term: Barbara Alleyne, Stever Aubrey, Deirdre Frank, and Peter Gearhart. The Board voted on the new members and there was no opposition. The new members were approved by membership.
- VII. LeBreton led a vote on the bylaw changes. The Annual Meeting will now take place on the last Monday of July. There was no opposition. The motion passed.

Wallis returned to the podium and adjourned the 96<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Martha's Vineyard Museum to begin the Martha's Vineyard Medal ceremony.