



The Martha's Vineyard Museum  
97<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Minutes  
July 29, 2019 ~ Museum Campus, Vineyard Haven

Chairman of the Board of Directors Stever Aubrey called the meeting to order at 5:04pm.

**Report of the Chairman**

- i. Aubrey began his remarks by expressing his pride in all the Museum accomplished during 2018, calling it the Museum's "most extraordinary year" and calling for everyone to look at the Museum campus around them. He thanked the Board, staff, volunteers, and anyone else who helped for their extraordinary work.
- ii. Aubrey outlined the agenda for the meeting, offering thanks and compliments to each of the speakers.

**Report of the Executive Director**

- iii. Executive Director Phil Wallis encouraged attendees to read the Annual Report for more information on everything being discussed during the Annual Meeting.
- iv. Wallis recalled December 20, 2018, when the Museum was given its Certificate of Occupancy by the Town of Tisbury making the Museum "real."
- v. Wallis announced to the crowd that the previous Tuesday there were 725 visitors to the Museum noting that that number of visitors exceeded expectations and was far more attendance than was seen in Edgartown. He asked the crowd to pass on the message and mission of the Museum and encourage others to visit.
- vi. Wallis thanked the new staff members: Heather Seger, Director of Advancement; Sam Morris, Manager of Digital Services; Anna Barber, Manager of Exhibitions and Programming (a new title).
- vii. He recapped the 2019 *Evening of Discovery*, thanking Katy Fuller for her extensive work on it and thanking the speakers (Steve Ewing, Michele Norris, and David McCullough).
- viii. Wallis discussed the Museum's push to be involved with all communities on the Vineyard and emphasized the desire for MVM to be a center of the community. He thanked the docents and volunteers for the role they play in the success of the Museum.
- ix. Wallis thanked Jim Woodward for his assistance with moving and preserving the 1854 Fresnel Lens and Nancy Vietor for her hard work on creating the Cooke House Gardens project on a portion of our old campus in Edgartown.
- x. He closed his remarks by noting that the Museum is almost 100 years old, and this moment feels like a rebirth.

**Report of the Treasurer**

- xi. Treasurer Dale Garth began his remarks by noting all the changes that occurred as the Museum moved campuses. He also introduced Carol Carroll, who recently joined the Museum as Director of Finance and Administration.

- xii. 2018 was not a real year of operations for the Museum as the Edgartown campus was not fully functional and closed for a large portion of the year, resulting in revenue decreases and increases in operations expenses to pay for the move, Garth noted that both these adjustments were planned for and financially supported by the Capital Campaign. 2018 was the last formal year of the capital campaign, which served as the main source of funding for the new Museum.
- xiii. Garth gave an overview of the Museum's payments to Consigli Construction, the general contractor on the museum project, the amount raised in 2018, and the Museum's loan with Cape Cod 5 bank. As payments and fundraising occur, Garth stated the Museum should have no outstanding bank debt in 2019.
- xiv. The education endowment that was created as a result of a National Endowment for the Humanities challenge grant was completed. For the first time, Garth noted, the Museum pulled a small amount from the endowment in order to cover operations. Garth stated that it is the Museum's intention to use a small percentage of the endowment for operating costs to run the education department each year. The endowment is currently at \$1.9 million.
- xv. Outside of the comprehensive capital campaign, the Museum received donations of \$1.7 million to purchase two houses on Skiff Avenue in 2018. It received another \$800,000 to purchase an additional house in early 2019. Garth explained that these three properties will be used as annexes to the main Museum campus.
- xvi. \$119,000 in restricted funds has been raised for the Cooke House and Legacy Gardens project in Edgartown.
- xvii. Garth explained that the key objective for the future is to develop financial sustainability by having a larger proportion of expenses being covered by revenue from operations and a small proportion of the endowment in order to reduce reliance on annual fundraising. It is a key piece of the financial and business plans.
- xviii. To close, Garth looked to the future. Beginning in 2019, the Museum is aiming to raise \$9 million to complete the capital campaign and build working capital. Garth emphasized the importance of this fundraising to build a strong financial future.

### **Report of the Governance Committee**

- xix. David LeBreton thanked the crowd for their support of the Museum and the Vineyard Haven project.
- xx. LeBreton announced that there are ten candidates up for first term election to the Board of Directors: Robert Blacklow, Dale Garth, David Grain, Calvin Linnemann, June Manning, Christopher Morse, Alison Shaw, Shelley Stewart, and Denys Wortman.
- xxi. LeBreton called for a vote on the ten candidates. His motion was seconded. The new Board members were unanimously approved.
- xxii. LeBreton asked for a vote to approve Lana Woods and Paul Schneider for their second terms on the Board of Directors. The motion was seconded. Schneider and Woods' reelections were approved unanimously.
- xxiii. LeBreton thanked Skip Finley for his time on the Board and his passion for the Museum as he ended his two terms.
- xxiv. LeBreton closed by noting that this was also his last term on the Board and thanked the Museum staff, Board, volunteers, and members for being so wonderful to work with noting their passion for the organization.

Executive Director Phil Wallis adjourned the annual meeting to begin the Martha's Vineyard Medal ceremony at 5:36pm.