**Darwin R. Barker Library and Museum Association**

**August 18, 2021**

**Steele Room**

**4:00pm**

**Members Present:** Davis Dengler, Mark Twichell, Michelle Twichell, Jon Weekly, Jeff Adams, Maureen Saunders, Michael Sheehan, Librarian Director Graham Tedesco-Blair, Curator Maxwell Walters

**Members Absent:** Linda Prechtl, Kathy Peterson

**Village Representative:** Scott Johnston, absent

**Town Representative:** Christopher Schaeffer, present

**Meeting called to order:** 4:00pm

**Minutes:** Motion to accept Jon, seconded Mark, motion carried

**Correspondence:** none

**Treasurer’s Report:** Report of a meeting with M&T/WT representative Rhomer Mendez along with Mark, Graham, and Accountant Rick Johnson to discuss with Rhomer the Morris Miller Trust. Information was exchanged in regards to the board not receiving monthly statements from WT and correcting the address to Darwin R. Barer Library or to David Dengler since it was being sent to a past board members business address.

A second meeting was held with Mark, Jeff, Graham, Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation members: Rick Johnson and Rick Ketcham, Jason Stronz (Courier Capital) representative. Performance of the funds held by Courier Capital as well as funds held by Wilmington Trust. Performance of the fund allows the association to take out 5% of the Courier Capital account. The trustees fee being charged by Wilmington Trust is an over charge from what NCCF would charge if the MM trust was transferred to NCCF. The association will take this into consideration and will follow up by inviting Amy Humel to DRBLMA’s October 20 yearly organization meeting.

**Library Report:** 2 new library clerks were hired. They are Amanda Rogers-Vink and Elizbeth Locke. Amanda, who began on the 9th, is an author, writing educator and editor who has taken to the position with a verve and enthusiasm that have quickly make her an asset to our library. Elizabeth will begin on the 23rd is a clerk at the Dunkirk Public Library and is a library science student at UB.

Thanks to Jan Dekoff of Chautauqua County Library Association for advertising the positions.

D”Arsie has arranged for another wonderful exhibit for us, this time bringing in the work of local painter Chad Lindstrom, whose colorful abstracts have been quite popular among both the patrons and staff. A reception was held on the 14th, which proved just as popular as our previous one.

We’ve received a wonderful gift of new display cases from the local high school, courtesy of Randy, one of their custodians. The school was preplacing their trophy cases, but the old ones were still in excellent condition. This is a great addition, as it will allow us to display 3D art, such as pottery, carvings, statues, artifacts and other works.

A meeting to discuss our strategic plan was held on the 12th. Attendees included Graham, board members David Dengler, Michael Sheehan, Linda Prechtl and Catherine Oag from the museum. A productive talk about the library’s priorities, our goals for the future and a number of excellent suggestions for future programs courtesy of Catherine, who is developing a plan for one of her library science classes. A draft would be available by the next board meeting for approval.

There will be a book sale from the 26th to the 28th, which should allow us to clear out our book room somewhat. John Bardo has donated a wonderful collection for us to sell, in addition to our already existing discards and donations.

There will be an upcoming reading series on September 9th. We are lucky to have Kristian Reiber visit to read from his new book, Dare to be Authentic. He is an inspirational speaker, author and wellness teacher who will share several sections from his book.

Our summer reading program has wrapped up and was a wonderful success. Despite the limitations of Covid restrictions, the children really enjoyed themselves and the parents seemed to appreciate the convenience of attending from home. Big thanks to Cary for her hard work!

**Curator Report:** The reopening of the museum was July 17th. It was well attended with 56 entries in the guestbook. Cash donations that day totaled $188 and 8 volunteers assisted. Visitors commented on the new exhibits favorably along with commenting on the clean windows which were open for the first time in several years to allow visitors to appreciate the view of the village through the old panes of glass. It felt like a home in the rooms where viewers enjoyed the view of the park as it once was seen when the museum was a home.

The museum will be open during regular hours set at: Saturday’s 1-5pm and Tuesday’s 4-8pm.

The curator was absent recently because of a family loss. Catherine was able to pick up the slack and continued to cover the opening hours along with attending to the daily duties to keep the museum running smoothly. She was able to contact volunteers to help cover opening hours for the museum. Many thanks to Catherine for covering the museum, allowing it to remain open during the absence of the curator.

Fredonia Preservation Society grant monies will be used to replace window coverings (blackout roller blinds under Federal curtains in the Manly Gallery and parlor, with the goal of providing protection from light while restoring a period aesthetic to the room. This project proposal will be completed by the September meeting.

Pursuing reputable contractors for renovations estimates that include the following: track lighting in the Manly Gallery, wood flooring and fresh paint in all exhibit areas and work on basement.

New Acquisitions include: library transom window, 1870 mourning dress, WCA Home collection (archives) of meetings from 1892- up, Mario Serio’s research files (archives), Howard Watch Co. documents (archives). Anticipated: Card Seed Co. documents (archives), Grape Belt newspaper (archives).

Proposed: Dunkirk Observer, microfilm (archives/reference) reached out to Jamestown and Dunkirk Libraries.

Curator recommended additional hours for Catherine since she is helping with more work at the museum.

Recommended better storage for paintings, additional textile boxes and shelves. More details will be forthcoming.

**Town Representative:** Christopher Schaeffer addressed the association asking for membership member numbers in regards to village residents and town residents that live outside of the village. The town board will be reviewing these numbers to make a decision on contributing money to DRBLMA for year’s budget. Christopher said he will push to have the contribution consistent to the prior year. Graham will look at the library memberships in the village and the town and will forward the results to Christopher and the DRBLMA board members.

**Old Business:** The Steele room can now be reserved by calling the library. The hours will be same as library hours. Christopher will inform the town that the DRBLMA wishes to keep the door shared by the town and the library locked.

**New Business:** Maxwell will apply to attend the Chautauqua Leadership Network training. The DRBLMA will pay for the expense of this training. The board would also like to have Graham enroll next year. This is a great opportunity to meet other young professionals in Chautauqua County and develop successful organizational skills.

An architectural study of the Barker house was proposed by Mark. An amendment to the by-laws will be placed in order to show the associations commitment to preserving the Barker house and the library building. Mask mandate will be reintroduced for library staff and visitors.

Maureen will ask former board member Nancy Bowser about sending copies of our policies.

**Meeting Adjourned 4:58pm:** Jon motioned, Jeff seconded, motion carried.

**Executive Session: 5:00pm** personnel

**Executive Session ended 5:11pm** Motion to accept Mark, seconded Maureen, motion carried

**Open meeting 5:12pm:** The board approved increasing Catherine Oag’s hours to 40 hours per week.

Jon motioned to accept, Jeff seconded, motion carried

**Meeting adjourned: 5:12pm** Mark motioned, Jeff seconded, motion carried.

**Next meeting: September 15, 2021 4pm Steele Room**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Michelle Twichell, DRBLMA secretary**