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

July 20, 2022 Minutes

**Members present**: Jeff Adams, Jon Weekly, Mark Twichell, Daniel Young, Kitty Crow, Linda Prechtl (video), David Dengler

**Members absent**: Pat Stokes, Kathy Petersen.

**Village Rep.**: Michelle Twichell

**Town of Pomfret Rep.**: Chris Shaffer

**Review of June Minutes**: Amendments discussed to recognize David’s presence; Catherine stood in for Max at this meeting. Minutes Approved.

**Correspondence:** None Received

**Treasurer’s Report:** Endowment funds continue losses from downward market with Director’s Fund (Courier Capital) losing 21% of value since Jan 1 and Morris Miller Fund (Wilmington Trust) losing 18% of value in same time. Monthly BLB statements show effects of increased energy costs with electric expenses 100% over budget and gas 200% over budget.

**Librarian’s Report:**

New librarian on staff Laurie Weatherlow.

Tranquility fountain cleaned by D’Arsie.

Little Library dedication ceremony 7-23.

D+F security system upgrade quote received.

Wi-fi range extension to Barker Common quote will be presented to Friends.

Art display rails quote will be presented to Friends for library’s portion and museum portion will go to museum budget.

Proposed mural artist Erin R. will receive $100 to prepare three vignettes of possible mural design for review by village. Mural Design Committee will be formed to suggest theme and place vignettes on website for public comment.

Summary presentation of library visits by school class category was discussed and statistical tracking was suggested by Kitty.

Invitations sent out for annual picnic have resulted in some declensions.

Library activities for the month include lego masterbuilders, take home crafts, children’s room mailbox. Adult programs include plant swap, writing workshop, Fredonia Reads@Barker Common, computer training.

**Curator’s Report:**

Exhibits: Feeding Fredonia to open August 26 with items from Card Building on loan in addition to collections items, Mark Twain December 3 with guest speakers Steve Keefe and Tom Reigstad.

Building improvements: conservation of 7 Mark Twain books, New lighting for Manly Gallery purchase order completed, Blackout roller shades to be installed soon in Manly gallery.

Collections Management: new intern Erin Hibberg reorganizing village records and preparing finding aid, Catherine continuing to reorganize and catalog Civil War collection.

Programs: Silhouettes and Sunprints for students to continue until August 3 and be extended for adults with Friends purchasing supplies, photography contest until July 31 with entries on display in Library until voting is closed. Promotion: new Museum fliers being distributed at events and information boards and to appear in OBSERVER, website updated with volunteer signup forms and list of projects and programs which people can donate towards.

**Town of Pomfret Representative:**

Town is entering budget preparations. Our association is asked to provide information in support of continued appropriation from town budget. Mark will review information shared with Town last year.

**Village of Fredonia Representative**:

Sculptor who replaced stolen cherub on fountain in West Barker Common has suggested possible fundraising by selling miniature versions of cherub. Michelle will invite sculptor to future meeting, possibly September.

**Old Business**: Next Fundraising Committee meeting July 28, Jeff handed out Spheres of Influence forms for fundraising connections to be returned by all Association members at next meeting August 17. Association picnic at Russel Joy Park August 23 at 4, setup and cleanup volunteers needed and suggestions for games and door prizes welcome.

**New Business**: Graham will ask Jason Stronz to attend a meeting in order to explain the workings of our Polacek Fund.

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Twichell,

Acting Secretary