

MONROE COUNTY MUSEUM SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, May 11, 2022 – 7 pm

Monroe County Museum
126 South Monroe Street
Monroe, Michigan 48161

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting of April 13, 2022
5. Public Comment
6. Committee Updates
 - 6.1. Executive Committee
 - 6.2. Awards Committee
 - 6.3. Building Committee
 - 6.4. Markers Committee
 - 6.5. Projects Committee
7. New Business
 - 7.1. Museum Staff Reports
8. Old Business
 - 8.1. NPS Request – *Action Required*
9. Public Comment
10. Board Comments
11. Adjournment

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 at 7 pm
Monroe County Museum
126 South Monroe Street
Monroe, Michigan 48161

2022 MONROE COUNTY MUSEUM SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES	2022 COMMITTEES
<p>Chair Brian Egen, District 6</p> <p>Vice Chair Jeremy Potter, District 1</p> <p>Secretary Michael Humphries, District 8</p> <p>Immediate Past Chair Hobby Nels</p> <p>Trustee Emeritus Richard Micka</p> <p>Trustee Thomas Heywood, District 2</p> <p>Trustee Mary Strevel, District 3</p> <p>Trustee L William Conner, District 4</p> <p>Trustee Michelle LaVoy, District 5</p> <p>Trustee Tony Trujillo, District 7</p> <p>Trustee Nick Guthrie, District 9</p>	<p>Executive Committee Chair: Brian Egen Members: Jeremy Potter, Michael Humphries, Hobby Nels, Andrew Clark, and JJ Przewozniak</p> <p>Awards Committee Chair: Mary Strevel Members: Tony Trujillo, Thomas Heywood, and Andrew Clark</p> <p>Markers Committee Chair: Jeremy Potter Members: Brian Egen, Nicholas Guthrie, Michael Humphries, Lynn Reaume, and Andrew Clark</p> <p>Projects Committee Chair: Michael Humphries Members: Bill Conner, Brian Egen, Tony Trujillo, and Andrew Clark</p>

Mission Statement of the Monroe County Museum System

At the Monroe County Museum, we fuel and cultivate our visitors' curiosity through the exploration of Monroe County's rich and varied stories, joining together to unearth meaning and illuminate relevant connections between the past, present, and future.

MONROE COUNTY MUSEUM SYSTEM
BOARD of TRUSTEES
MEETING MINUTES
April 13th, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.
at the Monroe County Museum, 126 South Monroe Street, Monroe

Present: Brian Egen, Chairman Jeremy Potter, Vice-Chairman Michael Humphries, Secretary
Tom Heywood, Member Nick Guthrie, Member Michelle LaVoy, Member
Hobby Nels, Past Chairman Mary Strevel, Member Richard Micka, Emeritis

Excused: William Conner, Member Tony Trujillo, Member
Museum Staff: Andy Clark, Director J.J. Przewozniak, Deputy Director
Lynn Reaume, County Historian

Guests: Shawna Mazur, River Raisin National Battlefield Park Sue Donovan, Friends of Potter Cemetery
Bob Queen, Exeter Township Historical Society Jeanne Micka, Sawyer Homestead

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll was called by the secretary and there was a quorum.

Motion was made by J. Potter, seconded by N. Guthrie to accept the agenda as presented; passed.

A motion was made by J. Potter to accept the February 9th meeting minutes as published; seconded by M. Humphries and was passed.

Public Comment #1: no comments.

Committee Updates: Executive: Chairman Egen said there was no report at this time.

Awards Committee: Chairperson M. Strevel said the applications are now active and online and nominations are due May 14th. The awards event will possibly be Sept. 8 at the Territorial Park for 3 years of awards since none had happened during the pandemic. The event may be a substitute for the trustees' September meeting.

Building Committee: The group have met and reviewed several properties; nothing to recommend at this time.

Historical Markers Committee: Director Clark took 2 more markers down to Sewah, who have still has not refurbished the previous ones due to overload and worker turnover. They are focusing on constructing new signs. Chairman Potter asked the group to meet after the meeting tonight.

Projects Grant Committee: Chairman Humphries reported that the applications are active and online.

New Business: Shawna Mazur was introduced and she outlined the reason she was there concerning the paperwork problem dating back to the 2015 donation of items from the County to the Battlefield. There was a caveat in the paperwork indicating the county would like the items returned in case of the closure/removal of NPS, but this was not accepted by NPS and the document was therefore not signed. Neither party was fully aware of this situation until very recently. She is trying to rectify the situation.

L. Reaume has met with her and returned items that the Park no longer wanted. There is a temporary loan for the remainder of the collection, but with free and clear donation paperwork requested by NPS. The

Trustees were given a list of the requested items to consider and discuss, with possibly a recommendation at the next meeting. That recommendation then goes to the County Board and county legal for the final steps. If any items had a caveat, these could be listed as a loan to NPS and renewed regularly.

There was some discussion concerning the Commission/Trustees' ownership of the historical markers previously placed outside on grounds owned by NPS. Since they do not want ownership and plan to someday replace those markers, they will return to the museum when needed.

Staff Reports: Motion was made by T. Heywood to accept as published, seconded by M. Humphries and passed.

Old Business: none.

Public Comment #2: S. Donovan reported that the group has a table at MCCC Earth Day event on the 23rd and will be fundraising.

Bob Queen of the Exeter Township Society explained the snafu that occurred concerning the concrete contractor and the new floor for the Exeter Township barn. There were several mix-ups and he hopes to clear and rectify those by procuring a new contractor to keep to the terms of the awarded Project Grant. The grant is still good, and just needs to keep the committee updated with the progress and for review.

Jeanne Micka announced the 150th anniversary of the Sawyer House and there will be events scheduled. She will keep the Trustees and staff aware of events.

Board Comments: T. Heywood spoke well of the Speakers Series hosted by the Museum.

The Director and Trustees thanked S. Mazur for her time presenting the NPS situation.

Chairman Egen encouraged the Trustees to visit the live events of the Museum, including First Fridays.

With no more business, motion was made by N. Guthrie to adjourn, seconded by J. Potter and the meeting was closed at 7:52 p.m.

Lynn W. Reaume
Acting recording secretary
14 April 2022

MONROE COUNTY MUSEUM SYSTEM

Director's Report

Submitted by Andrew Clark, Director

Wednesday, May 11, 2022

Organizational Operations

County Museum

Public access to the galleries at the County Museum are Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10 am to 5 pm, and Sundays, 12 pm to 5 pm; we are currently only closed on Mondays.

County Archives

Research by-appointment and via phone, mail, and email.

Territorial Park

Seasonal operations have started. Historic buildings are open Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 10 am to 4 pm.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Museum

Grounds are open; opening of the museum is anticipated for May 28th.

St Antoine's Historic Site

Grounds are open year round.

Maintenance and Operations

Museum and Archives

Perimeter sidewalk work was completed by the city contractor. It ended up being a smaller project than initially envisioned and limited to only squares with significant damage to require replacement. The section of sidewalk with the severe slope at the back that tied in with the sidewalk was removed as part of the project. It is anticipated that the new ramp will terminate near this section.

The ramp project continues. Two architects' proposals have been forwarded along to the county's central office.

Lighting upgrades continue in the second floor gallery spaces. Awaiting the installation of some outlets in Sieb Hall and the conversion of the floodlights to LED to finish up this spring's lighting projects.

Territorial Park

As what continues to be a theme from last year, projects remain in limbo due to contractors' staffing shortages: the Papermill School restoration and

grounds work are the leading examples. Fortunately, JJ appears to be making some headway on tackling some grounds projects around the farm with the anticipated assistance of the Sheriff Office's Redshirt and JAWS programs.

JJ, Gerry, and I had a productive preliminary conversation with an architect to discuss plans on taking the initial steps of constructing the service barn for the park.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Museum

No significant maintenance projects to report.

St Antoine's Historic Site

Memorial is open. There are no significant maintenance projects to report.

Historical Projects Fund

Deadline for the Projects Fund is June 11th. I've fielded a few calls and conversations but no applications have been received as of this writing.

Markers Program

No significant updates to report at this time.

Spirit of Service Awards

No nominations have been received as of this writing. Deadline for applications is Saturday, May 14th.

Personnel Updates

Two guest services specialist positions have been posted – one regular, part-time and one seasonal, part-time. As of this writing I anticipate that the seasonal, part-time position will be filled. Staff will be on a rotating schedule to cover the front desk during the interim.

Upcoming Closures

The Monroe County Museum System will be closed Monday, May 30th for Memorial Day, a County of Monroe holiday.

MONROE COUNTY MUSEUM SYSTEM
Deputy Director's Report for April 2022
Submitted by Jeffrey J. (JJ) Przewozniak
Monday, May 9, 2022

Programming:

- The *First Friday* on April 1 was the return of *Wizard Academy*. The programs division led fun kid's activities, complete with costumes and magical vignettes setup throughout the museum. Special thanks to Robert, Rachel, and Heather for their assistance and for joining in the fun to make a robust experience for the visitors.
- On April 5 and 7, we held *Spring Fling*, during which the programs division offered fun hands-on craft activities for the kiddos who were off school for spring break.
- The Online Speaker Series is now over! There were 3 virtual presentations held this month. On the 7th, Paul Freedman presented *American Cuisine: And How it Got This Way* (2019), on the 14th, Julie Avery presented *Agricultural Fairs in America: Tradition, Education, Celebration* (2000), and on the 21st, Kenneth Lewis presented *West to Far Michigan: Settling the Lower Peninsula, 1815-1860* (2012). We look forward to continuing and enhancing the Speaker Series later this year.
- Programs Division staff participated in the Earth Day Expo, held on Saturday, April 23 at MCCC.
- Ag Day was held Friday April 29 at the fairgrounds. Staff conducted an educational process demo using a mechanical corn sheller and a hand mill to process about half of our King Phillip Corn from last year, alongside children's games. The cornmeal is reserved for use in the historic foodways programming this season. Thanks for doing all the cranking, kids!

Territorial Park:

- A variety of chores and maintenance went on throughout the month to get the 1817 farm ready for the living history season (Thursdays through Saturdays, 10 am to 4 pm, May through September). This includes cleaning, wood cutting, pest control, garden work, and other tasks.
- Sewing of period clothing continued throughout the month. In addition, a period clothing policy is in the final stages of completion, to formalize and govern our approach to this critical element of living history education.
- A historic foodways demonstration schedule has been developed for the living history season and will be implemented at opening in May. The schedule features a diversity of demonstrations aimed at accurately living out a central part of life at the River Raisin Settlement c. 1817, with accommodations incorporated for scope and resources.
- An heirloom garden plan has been created based on the foodways schedule. Following research, about 50 types of heirloom vegetables, fruits, and herbs have been selected. With the help of Mother Nature, the 1817 garden will be a key part in advancing sustainability of historic foodways, as well as a distinctive pleasing feature of the historic landscape at RRTP.

Outreach:

- Monday, April 11: Ida Cub Scout Pack 538 Visit (24 visitors)
- Tuesday, April 19: Grandmother's Trunk teacher kit delivered to Oaks Acorn Preschool.

Continuing Education:

- Thursday, April 7: *Native Americans of the Upper Great Lakes: Sociological and Historical Perspectives on Land and Schooling Among the Anishinaabek*, hosted by the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research.
- Thursday, April 28: *The Forests of Michigan*, hosted by the University of Michigan.

LOCAL HISTORY DIVISION Report
For April, 2022

We were open to the general public by appointment; 12 visitors + GSMC members. Topics identified included the Couture family, the Harleston Mansion, Monroe Gas & Light Company., county schools, surnames Versluys & Haman; 'Legacy of the River Raisin' book, Patrick Powers (again), Custer Farm, Rockwood school.

Rachel processed 105 obituary requests from 13 individuals. She handled 9 phone calls and 28 emails and included surnames such as Wohlfeil, Luthy, Lohr, Leibold, Harwood, Lerche, Jewell, Jefferson, Gramlich, Goodnough, Verhoeven, Kiebler, Henrich. She participated with Programs for the First Friday event.

Robert had 19 outside calls and answered 32 emails. He was busy working on removing stored Country Store items (Andy found more for him) and incorporating them into the Collections room. FIC included boots, men's collars, jewelry, fans, handbags, sewing tools, children's games & clothes, shoe cleaning materials, etc. It is clear items were just taken in for display and added with like materials without bothering to accession. He continues to weekly monitor the Collections storage areas. He also participated in the First Friday Event.

April Accessions:

2022.24 John Sieb: Sieb family pictures and Douglas Sieb's garrison cap
2022.25 Emily Phillips: 4-H trophies, shirt & photographs
2022.26 Monroe Co. Health Department: COVID vaccine vials (empty), stock boxes and vaccination record card
2022.27 G.S.M.C: Old French Town Days Scrapbooks 1978- 1986

April projects: I finally got to start processing the Verhoeven Collection photographs which included a large number of Carleton historian and photographer George E. Lang's black and white photographs, film negatives and glass plate negatives. As usual, there were unidentified places and people, though I did my best to have some description for each image. There are (so far) 821 prints and negatives, plus 156 glass-plate negatives!

I also entered previously accessioned Lang and Spanish-American war images from Kopke collections into PastPerfect.

One of the more interesting research topics was when the Project Manager for Pescador, LLC Dan Staub contacted me for images of the old Monroe Gas and Light company that was located at the site of the current Monroe Post Office. He was able to clearly explain the process of producing gas from coal (no wonder Hurd located his coal yard so close!) I found it very interesting. The problem is that in Monroe, only the same few street areas were photographed, and many areas not photographed at all (like behind the photographer and further down the street!) But I did find a few.

County Google Stats: the Obituary search was at #1 with 9,703 page views; the Museum was #32 with 661 page views; Territorial Park was #148 with 84 page views.

Facebook: I posted 5 unknown children for identification with 29,546 views with 4550 engagements! One boy was identified with certainty.

Lynn W. Reaume, County Historian
May, 2022

Monroe County Museum System Board of Trustees

April 2022 Museum Exhibits Report

April was one of those months where the exhibits department went about its business “behind the scenes” doing background/preparation work.

As a case in point, quite a bit of effort went into designing the gates needed for the Territorial Park fence around the Navarre House. Based on the completed (and approved) design, Mike put together a prototype to see if our plans would work. Based on this reality, I set about designing the exact specs for the “period hardware” needed to hang the gates. Now it’s up to a contract blacksmith to forge the necessary hardware (pintle, strap hinge, hook & eye closure) and for Mike to assemble two more gates. As of the end of the month, I am also undertaking a comprehensive examination of an impressive collection of native artifacts housed at the Bedford Library. The service is conducted at their request.

This shortened report format gives me an opportunity to highlight the typical monthly activities of Emily, working in what we like to call the “upper office” of the exhibits department. Her focus is on the graphic needs of the museum and especially for the programs department. Among the accomplishments for April, she created graphics for May’s First Friday “Revenge of the Sixth” including flyers, Twitter graphics, Facebook/Instagram graphics, Facebook event banner, and sidewalk sign. She also created Easter graphics for facebook, Twitter, and Instagram –including an animated gif of an antique postcard from the Museum's collection for an Easter social media post.

We finished our on-line virtual exhibit “100 years of 4-H in Monroe County” online exhibit (referenced in last month’s report) and made an Earth Day post for our on-line presence using a photo from the Museum's collection. As the May opening of the Territorial Park approached, Emily updated the RRTP Open sidewalk sign and created a social media “countdown” post to promote the opening of the Living History 2022 season. Now that April has transitioned into May, her work involves designing a graphic to adorn the museum’s hand-out bags.

Without any of this “behind the scenes work” we’d have none of the actual scene work.

Respectfully submitted,
Gerald P. Wykes
Exhibits Coordinator

May 9, 2022

Monroe County Museum System Board of Trustees

Guest Services Division Report ◇ April 2022

April's recurring tasks included submitting invoices for payment, ordering office supplies, program materials for First Friday, fabric, and archival materials, and deposits were made at the County Treasurer's office.

First Fridays continued with Wizard Academy, a program that brought 180 people to the Museum on April 1. Many staff members participated and the event was a huge success!

Again, I am very grateful to Lisa, Jess, and Sam for assisting me with random tasks in the office, as well as to Emily for occasionally making runs to the Court House/City Hall when I have little time to do so. Thank you all!

I am currently reviewing and updating the Guest Services Specialist manual.

The Guest Services Specialist position was posted and applications are reviewed as they are received.

Respectfully submitted by Heather Piegza, Guest Services Coordinator