

Chatham Historical Society
Annual Meeting of Members
Thursday, August 14, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm in the second floor Meeting Room of the Chatham Community Center.

Board Chair Mike Woehler welcomed those present and expressed the Board's appreciation of the financial and volunteer support of members and friends of the Atwood House Museum and the Chatham Historical Society.

Mike asked for a motion to waive the reading of the Minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting. This motion was made, seconded, and approved. A motion to approve the Minutes from the 2024 meeting was also approved.

Committee reports are available on the Society's website.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Linda Cebula reminded attendees that the Treasurer's report is available on the website. If anyone wishes to request a copy of the Treasurer's Report to be emailed to them there is a signup sheet to make this request.

Income in all areas has been very healthy from events held and the Chatham Historical Society is on solid ground financially.

The Society is in the process of receiving a bequest of approximately \$1,000,000 from the estate of Joshua A. Nickerson and Louise Nickerson. We are very grateful for this extremely generous bequest.

We are also very appreciative of the \$408,000 grant from the CPC approved at the May Chatham Town Meeting. The purpose of this grant is the restoration of the Stallknecht Murals.

Linda thanked the Staff and Volunteers for their continuing efforts on behalf of the Atwood House Museum.

Election of Officers

Craig Vokey presided over the election process in the absence of the Chair, Carolynn Levy.

Craig requested the re-election of Linda Cebula as Treasurer of the Chatham Historical Society. Linda's re-election was approved by all those present.

Craig Vokey next presented the slate of officers for the year 2025-2026. They are:

Chair: Donna Kaufmann

Vice Chair: Mike Woehler

Secretary: Stuart Green

Treasurer: Linda Cebula

There being no other nominees, a motion to elect the officers as presented was approved.

Chair Mike Woehler introduced members of the Board of Trustees to the membership. He also introduced the Honorary Trustees to the Membership. Mike thanked all those named for their work on behalf of the Chatham Historical Society/Atwood House Museum.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Kevin Wright thanked those present for coming. He expressed his appreciation of the work of Associate Executive Director Kristina Koskores and Administrator and Operations Manager Victoria Shakespeare. Kevin added his thanks for the bequest from the Nickerson Estate.

Kevin highlighted this year's new exhibit about Immigration and the returning exhibits in the Main Gallery Exhibit, the Hat Exhibit put together by Costumes & Textiles Chair Janet Marjollet, and the Children's Activity Room. He also commented on "In Tune with Chatham", honoring Karl Fehrle, former Treasurer of the Society and Chatham Band member for many years. "Land Ho: Chatham, a Fishing and Shipping Community" is an exhibit about the fishing industry in Chatham. A new documentary is now showing about author Joseph C. Lincoln and another documentary is coming about artist Harold Brett.

Monomoy Middle School students come to the Museum each year after reading the book "Finest Hours" about the 1952 Coast Guard rescue of 32 men from the ship Pendleton.

Events held this year include a beautiful House Tour in West Chatham, and the Evening to Remember in July. Both of these are major fund-raising events.

Coming events include the annual Cemetery Tour (October 17th this year), the annual Hearth Warming on Chatham Stroll weekend, and a Festival of Trees on December 6th with the Chatham Garden Club.

Restoration of the Stallknecht Murals will begin after the Museum closes in October and proceed until May. It will re-commence in October of 2026 and be completed by May 2027.

The Business Meeting ended at 5:20 pm.

Kevin then introduced our speaker, author, actor, and Chatham resident Bernard Cornwell. Mr. Cornwell's talk was about real and fake history. He used an event from the American Revolution as an example of how easily, over time, and sometimes deliberate misrepresentation, fake history can become regarded as real history. The very interesting program ended at 6:00 pm.

Kevin thanked the membership for attending and Mr. Cornwell for speaking.

Margaret Martin
Recording Secretary