

Town of Massena Museum
200 E. Orvis St.
Massena, NY 13662
Board of Trustees Meeting
January 7, 2016

Present: Ann Greene (Treasurer), Joseph Macauley (President), Joseph Savoca (Secretary), David Talarico, Bonnie Weitz, Sally Yeddo
Mary Ellen Casselman (Historian), Linda McDonald (Archivist)
Samuel Carbone (Town Councilman)

Excused: John Davis

Absent: Steven O'Shaughnessy (Town Councilman)

There were no items viewed for possible deaccessioning.

Call to Order and Attendance: Time: 6:35 P. M.

Minutes: A motion to approve the November 2015 and December 2015 minutes was made by Sally Yeddo with a second by David Talarico. Yes 6 No 0 Motion Passed

Treasurer's Report: A motion to approve the Treasurer's Reports for November 2015 and December 2015, as discussed, was made by Bonnie Weitz with a second by Sally Yeddo. Yes 6 No 0 Motion Passed

Ann Greene received a letter from NBT Bank stating that one savings account (memorial fund) was inactive. She made a deposit to that account to activate it. She will store statements from the past year at the museum. A donation (\$5) and proceeds from sale of a book (\$22) will be placed into petty cash. The Steven Prince family donated \$100.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

1. Accessions and Deaccessions: None.
2. Photographic History books sold in December 2015: 1.
3. Visitors Tally for December 2015: 40.
4. Facebook Visits: 166.
5. Election of Officers: A motion to approve Joseph Macauley as Chair, David Talarico as Vice-Chair, Joseph Savoca as Secretary and Ann Greene as Treasurer for 2016 was made by Bonnie Weitz with a second by David Talarico. Yes 6 No 0 Motion passed
Joseph Savoca will notify Town Supervisor Joseph Gray and Town Clerk Pamela Catanzarite of the newly elected slate of officers.
6. Joseph Macauley would like to have more school children visit the new museum building when it opens. He will talk to the Massena Central School District Superintendent Patrick Brady

and the school board.

Historian's Report: Mary Ellen Casselman showed April Vasher-Dean (Director/Curator of The Art Museum SUNY Potsdam) and Romi Sebald (Collections Manager) the museum's current display area. Their suggestions for improvements are appended. Randy Peets has asked them to design the displays for the new museum building.

The new museum building, the need for deaccessioning items, and the need for storage space was discussed. Items to be deaccessioned must be approved by the Town Council. Subsequently, Town Bookkeeper Nancy Fregoe must be notified in order to remove the items from the list of insured items. Joseph Savoca stated the need for a written Collections Management Policy to guide the accessioning, use and deaccessioning of items, as well as to inform the public of the manner in which the museum operates.

Mary Ellen Casselman distributed her annual report for 2015. The report is appended. She has sent the report to Suzanne Longshore, St. Lawrence County Historian, and asked her who in the New York State Historian's Office the report should be sent to.

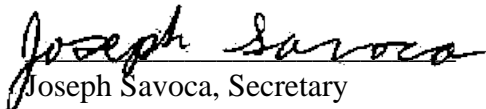
Archivist's Report: Linda McDonald reported that the Christmas displays in the museum have been taken down as well as a new display for January and February placed in the Massena Public Library. She would like to utilize the second display case (vacated by the Massena Aluminum Historical Association) located at the Massena Airport Terminal Building.

Town Board Representatives' Comments: Steven O'Shaughnessy will replace Thomas Miller as the second Town Council liaison to the museum board. Samuel Carbone will ask Steven O'Shaughnessy to review Mary Ellen Casselman's placement of security cameras at the new museum building because of his past position as head of security at the New York Power Authority.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Sally Yeddo with a second by David Talarico. Yes 6 No 0 Motion Passed Time 7:30 P. M.

Next Meeting Thursday, February 4, 2016 **7:00 P. M.** The board will meet at **6:30 P. M.** to view items for possible deaccession.

Respectfully submitted,

 Date Approved 2/4/16
Joseph Savoca, Secretary

Assistance with new museum set up suggested by April Vasher-Dean Director/Curator and Romi Sebald Collections Manager at SUNY Art Museum.

Tell a story, write a thesis

If it does not pertain directly to Massena or if we have duplicates get rid of it!!

We will need to provide storage as well as housing for the hearses. They suggested building the whole length and using the ends as storage. In the interim use the temporary exhibit area as storage.

Perhaps with farming implements they could be incorporated into one family's story.

Shelving units are great.

Large Spring's painting. Possibly could work as a backdrop for the Spring's era but smaller pictures instead or inform with other memorabilia would tell it better.

Each story should be told completely, the right story the right way. Use an outsider not familiar with story to evaluate.

Down size all china. One setting each max perhaps 2 good pieces each of floe blue etc. is all we need. Get rid of Norman Rockwell and other and anything NOT from Massena. How do figurines relate to Massena?

Holiday decorating can be done with greens etc vs plates, dishes etc.

St. Patrick's Hogansburg is not in Massena. Articles from there are not relevant, minimize usage.

Large sewing machines not connected with Massena, not manufactured or used here. Keep only one machine, ie a reg. sized machine in good condition.

Police switchboard would work well with police uniform etc. highlighting police dept.

Motorola cell phone of no value ditch it.

Typewriters- get rid of all but 2, focusing on specific eras. Printing press is interesting if it focused on Bailey's store in a business display.

Melvin might be great as a greeter to the exhibit. Make him a mascot. Great draw for kids.

Boxing boys should have own area not with school.

Keep only one cup or mug etc for each year MHS

IS Parker Medical case from Massena?

Keep only one wheelchair. Take pictures of the ones being deaccessioned to do wheelchair history. Try to connect with a Massena family .

Keep only a few mannequins that are in good shape.

CB's temporary only

Evaluate dolls. Keep only a few of different time periods. Same with cradles, etc.

Recreate store but only use items they would have used in the 1940-50's. Keep counter and things relevant to that time period.

Display only one cash register at a time. Change yearly with a story for each one.

Hardware display could incorporate farming tools with Clark cash register.

Thread cabinet is nice but is it from Massena ? Does it have a story??

Steam pot should go with a Hospital or medical display, again temporary display.

Highlight the diving helmet and set up cannon to be at a better level.

Advertising papers could be put in poster display forms to conserve space. They could also be used for other documents.

Significantly downsize cameras. Keep a few examples from different eras.

Check with Sue Ellen to see if we could get any Native American artifacts for exhibit.

Elger Dyke and book are interesting if able to find book.

RR Clock is from Remsen not here. Perhaps keep for a temporary exhibit.

Incorporate Hawley's Music store with musical instruments and piano.

Funeral display with fewer items, ie one of each, get rid of multiples ie. plates and lights. Set up display with hearse across from other funeral items.

Use fire engine with Springs display with hotels that burned.

Rotate different church displays yearly. Incorporate with monogrammed dishes.

Highlight transportation, farming, Springs tourism and business in permanent. Switch out businesses etc.

Keep calendar of rotations and design changes.

STORAGE!!!!

MASSENA HISTORIAN'S REPORT FOR 2015

2015 was a busy year in the Massena Historian's office. We started the year featuring a large Olympic Display commemorating the 35th Anniversary of the Winter Olympics in Lake Placid with displays from local residents that had worked or participated in the Games. In the spring we hosted Student Government Day as well as our yearly visits by the local fourth grade students.

April was an exciting month as I received my certification as a Registered Historian at the APHNYS conference in Cortland. We also received wonderful news that a local lawyer Mr. Randy Peets had purchased a local bank and gave it to the Town of Massena for a new Museum to be called the "Celine G. Philibert Cultural Center and Museum". It is a beautiful relatively new building which a local contractor is renovating without charge. Our display space will be increased but storage will be downsized to about ¼ of what we now utilize. We continue to be very busy working on downsizing and deaccessioning items in order to be able to move into the building, hopefully in the early summer. In April we also held our first Spring Open House which was very well attended.

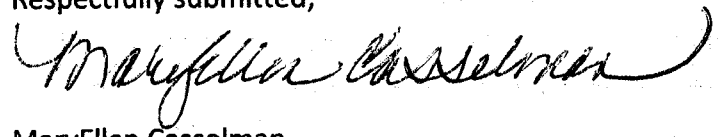
I traveled to the St. Lawrence County Historian's spring and fall meetings in Morristown and Potsdam, respectively and during the year completed over 70 research requests for general information and genealogical look-ups. The archivist and volunteers continue to rotate historical displays at the Massena Library and the Massena Airport. I worked on the development of a new web page for the Museum under the auspices of the Town of Massena.

At this year's Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon we honored 2 Volunteers, Pam Barkley who yearly donates many hours of service and Karen Bailey who, having her own genealogy service has been invaluable assisting with research and working with the MCRF.

The Massena Cemetery Restoration Fund, which I established the previous year, was extremely busy this summer. We obtained our 501C3 and are slated to receive an ALCOA Action Grant of \$3,000 this summer. The Boy Scouts continue to clean headstones in the West Orvis Cemetery and in July the CCC Youth Group spent 2 days cleaning brush and debris. I have finished researching the nearly 400 individuals therein and hope to have a booklet completed by next year compiling the family histories. Volunteer Karen Bailey and I developed a pamphlet for the MCRF and initiated an Adopt-A-Grave program. We have also started a headstone census on a 2nd cemetery in Massena Center.

I have been appointed as a member to the St. Lawrence County Historical Association Board and am anxious to attend my first meeting this month and become involved at the County level.

Respectfully submitted,



MaryEllen Casselman

Registered Historian