

MONROE COUNTY MUSEUM SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, February 9, 2022 – 7 pm

Monroe County Museum
126 South Monroe Street
Monroe, Michigan 48161

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Introduction of new board member, Michelle LaVoy
3. Roll Call
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting of January 12, 2022
6. Public Comment
7. Committee Updates
 - 7.1. Executive Committee
 - 7.2. Awards Committee
 - 7.3. Building Committee
 - 7.4. Markers Committee
 - 7.5. Projects Committee
8. New Business
 - 8.1. Museum Staff Reports
9. Old Business
10. Public Comment
11. Board Comments
12. Adjournment

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, March 9, 2022 at 7 pm
Monroe County Museum
126 South Monroe Street
Monroe, Michigan 48161

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

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
January 12th, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in-person
at the Monroe County Museum, 126 South Monroe Street, Monroe

Present: Brian Egen, Chairman Jeremy Potter, Vice-Chairman Tom Heywood, Secretary
 Nick Guthrie, Member Michael Humphries, Member Richard Micka, Member
 Hobby Nels, Past Chairman Tony Trujillo, Member

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

Guest: Dave Hoffman, County Commissioner Bill Saul, President, Monroe County Historical Society
 Sue Donovan, Friends of Potter Cemetery Chris Kull, Exeter Historical Society
 Anne Kleinow, Exeter Historical Society Randy McCormick Monroe Historical Society
 Rusty Davis, River Raisin Battlefield

This meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. and roll was taken; there was a quorum.

Election of Officers for 2022: T. Heywood informed the group that he would not want to continue and secretary. B. Egen was nominated by M. Humphries for Chairman, seconded by N. Guthrie. He accepted, nominations were closed and he was voted in unanimously.

J. Potter was nominated for Vice-Chairman by N. Guthrie, seconded by T. Heywood; he accepted and was voted in unanimously.

M. Humphries was nominated for Secretary by T. Heywood, seconded by J. Potter; he also accepted and was voted in unanimously.

With the vacancy of R. Sieb, it was considered that R. Micka be appointed to that position as Trustee Emeritus. He agreed and M. Humphries made the motion, seconded by N. Guthrie and voted unanimously.

2022 Committee Appointments: It was agreed by all that committee appointments should remain from 2021.

Motion was made by M. Humphries to accept the meeting agenda as published; seconded by J. Potter and approved.

Motion was made by J. Potter to accept the December 8th 2021 Meeting Minutes, with the corrections of the name 'Guthrie' and grant amount of \$3,750." Seconded by M. Humphries and approved.

Public Comment #1: none

Committees: Executive: no report.

Awards: no report.

Building: no report.

Markers: Chairman Egen noted that the prices have gone up with the Sewah company.

Projects from Fall, 2021: Chairman M. Humphries gave an update that the previously suspended grant applications have now been worked out: the Monroe County Historical Society \$10,000. for renovations to the Johnson-Phinney building. N. Guthrie made the motion to accept the recommendation for approval, seconded by J. Potter and the motion was passed unanimously.

Second was the Exeter Historical Society request of \$7,936.80 for barn repairs and improvements; motion was made by N. Guthrie to accept to recommendation for approval, seconded by J. Potter and passed unanimously.

It was noted that the Director continues to improve the application process; the next round will be in Spring of 2022.

New Business: Prof. John Chenoweth from U-M Dearborn gave a presentation on his work and hopes for archaeology for the River Raisin Battlefield site. He spoke on the importance of the site and excavations and artifacts. He is hoping for permission to take some of the Museum's Battlefield related dug artifacts and analyze them to incorporate into a bigger understanding of the battlefield. He would have his students process the artifacts and compile the data.

M. Humphries made a motion to provide a Letter of Support from the Trustees for Prof. Chenoweth; seconded by J. Potter; voted for unanimously.

Museum Staff Reports: Motion was made by N. Guthrie to accept the reports as published; seconded by J. Potter. Discussion involved the Local History report where published articles and photographs use have not been readily accredited to the museum. Suggestions included watermarking images or very low resolution images shared.

Old Business: STEPS list compilation was shared from Vice-Chair Potter. This is for reference.

Public Comment #2: C. Kull remarked about the widespread Payette collection. Several guests had Thank You for the Board and general comments.

Board comments: Thank You around the table for the committees and positive selection of R. Micka as Emeritus.

Director Clark reminded the group that the museum's first winter lecture series is on the 13th with the History of Football.

With no other comments, M. Humphries made motion to close the meeting, seconded by J. Potter and the meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Lynn W. Reaume
Acting Recording Secretary
13 January 2022

MONROE COUNTY MUSEUM SYSTEM

Director's Report

Submitted by Andrew Clark, Director

Wednesday, February 9, 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

Structures have closed for the season; grounds remain open.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Museum

Museum is closed for the season; grounds remain open.

St Antoine's Historic Site

Grounds remain open.

Maintenance and Operations

Museum and Archives

No significant maintenance projects to report.

Territorial Park

No significant maintenance projects to report.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Museum

Memorial is open; museum is closed for the season. No significant maintenance projects to report.

The counter posted at the exit of Heck Park is being problematic and hasn't reported accurate numbers since mid-Fall. It is appearing likely the counter will require replacement.

St Antoine's Historic Site

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

Historical Projects Fund

The 2022 application should be ready to go no later than Friday, February 18th once Emily jazzes it up a bit with design elements, making it fillable, etc. There will be some revisions in hopes of making it a bit more usable and removing some common stumbling blocks. Just a reminder that in the fulfillment of our successful millage renewal, the yearly project award budget is now \$60,000 with a maximum project cap

of \$20,000. Though we did a supplemental application last Fall to get us to \$60,000 in 2021, the originally budgeted amount was \$30,000 with a maximum project cap of \$10,000.

Markers Program

On Sunday, January 16th Jeremy contacted me to let me know that one of the Ida markers had been damaged (see attached image). Jeremy scooped up the broken part of the tablet and he met me at the museum to drop it off. Never having seen a marker damaged in such a manner before, I scurried over to Ida to see the marvel for myself. A quick in-person and online investigation quickly brought the mystery of the broken marker to a close. Sadly, once again I was deprived of using my historical marker crime scene investigation kit I got when I was eleven.

Anyways, Mike went and retrieved the broken section of marker still attached to the post a few days later. Luckily, the post was not damaged and will be reusable. When I make my long delayed trip down to Marietta to pick up some refurb and drop off some more, we'll take down the other Ida marker so it can get the new paint scheme.



Spirit of Service

The SoS application will be accompanying the historical projects fund on its yearly rounds next week.

Personnel Updates

Ann Morris, Guest Services staffer, left for other opportunities.

The vacancy has been posted and Heather and I will begin conducting interviews later this week. If all goes well, we should have a staffer in place sometime next month.

Upcoming Closures

The next regularly scheduled holiday closure for the MCMS is Monday, February 21st for Presidents' Day. Regular operations resume Tuesday, February 22nd.

Hodge Podge

Since it's been a minute since we've had a new member to our board, I'll be reaching out to each of you soon for an updated contact list. Please let me know if you're okay having your contact information shared with your fellow board members.

Just a note on protocols. In the event of an afterhours emergency regarding a museum system property, below is the calling hierarchy. If you do not have our numbers, please let me know.

Emergency Call Order

1. Andrew Clark, Museum System Director
2. JJ Przewozniak, Museum System Deputy Director
3. Brian Egen, Chair
4. Jeremy Potter, Vice Chair
5. Mike Humphries, Secretary

MONROE COUNTY MUSEUM SYSTEM
Deputy Director's Report for January 2022
Submitted by Jeffrey J. (JJ) Przewozniak
Monday, February 7, 2022

Programming: The [first] *First Friday* event of 2022 was held January 7. *Long Winter's Nap* drew in approximately 15 visitors, and was a pleasant opportunity for the community to experience the County Museum after hours. First Fridays will continue throughout the year with elements in place to promote health and safety for staff and community. This month's *Curiosity Cart* (presented on Saturdays) told a complementary story as a *Hibernation Station*, with hands-on activities, take-home crafts, and a museum scavenger hunt.

Outreach:

- Thursday, January 20: Indigenous Lifeways at Triumph Academy for the 3rd grade (90 students).

Speaker Series: It's back! Please see our website for a complete list of speakers and dates for virtual presentations now through April. On Thursday, January 13, we hosted Timothy Brown, author of *How Football Became Football: 150 Years of the Game's Evolution* (2020), and on Thursday, January 20, Walter Borneman presented *1812: The War that Forged a Nation* (2009). Both presentations have been uploaded to the YouTube channel.

Filming: On Saturday, January 22, the 1817 farm was temporarily awoken from its own long winter's nap for an extended day of filming centered on the battles. Territorial Park came alive as the film crew, staff, and a small army of volunteers descended upon the sleepy farmstead to capture scenes well into the night. A great time was had by all, despite the chill in the air. Many thanks to the MCMS staff who worked on-site, and the excellent group of volunteers, many of whom had participated in last year's winter battle filming. Special thanks to Matt Switlik for generously allowing the use of his property the Monday prior to film additional scenes.

Continuing Education:

- Thursday, January 6: *Michigan in the War of 1812*, a webinar hosted by The Capitol Tour, Education, and Information Service.
- Thursday, January 20: *Simulations and Role-Play Lessons: What to Do Instead*, hosted by Colonial Williamsburg.

Miscellany:

- Christmas decorations were expediently taken down during the first week of January.
- Re-organization and cleaning continues within the costume and supplies room. Progress is made almost daily, as our inventory is sculpted to better reflect our current direction regarding living history programming. Production of high-quality period clothing will launch in February.
- Thanks to Lynn, Gerry, and Sam for their work in planning activities centered on One Book, One Community of Monroe.
- Thanks to this month's volunteers and supporters: Chairman Brian Egen, Trustee Tony Trujillo, Jess Anspaugh, Jeff Mogle, Caleb & Henry Gilbert, Jake Zettelmaier, Marty Bertera, Roy Adkins, Geoff & Owen Hoerauf, Tim LaMothe, Ken Burghart, Ken Roberts, Rick Simmons, James Loba, Caedan & Chase Blackwell, Alex Dishaw, Thomas Edwards, John P. Stephens, Shannon Bigham, Jim Fobar, and Nicholas Ryan.

Monroe County Museum System Board of Trustees

January 2022 Museum Exhibits Report

Put succinctly, as if ink needed rationing, it would be coldly correct to simply state that the exhibits dept. filled up two spaces in the South Gallery this month. But, since that leaves at least 10 inches of perfectly good blank space on this paper it makes more sense to elaborate a bit. And so I will...elaborate, that is. I submit to you these two examples of space-filling.

At the risk of being that neighbor who leaves his plastic Santa on the roof until July, we took down the “24 Toys to Christmas” exhibit on Groundhog Day. Since there were no immediate exhibit plans for the large vacant space formally occupied by said toys (other than a short-lived idea to display our thumb tack collection), we decided to fill it with two panels re-creating the appearance of the original post office boxes that once occupied the space. These panels can be removed and replaced in the future as exhibits come and go.

This project was not as easy as it sounds. From the 1932 building blueprint we know there were 180 No. 1 style boxes, 48 No. 2 style boxes and 24 No. 3 style drawers in Bays B & C (as they were originally termed). They run from box no. 1 to drawer 359. It became a challenging graphic project to reconstruct the array using photos of the proper type boxes and give them their properly aged number sequence. Emily and I put quite a bit of effort in to this and the end result is satisfying. Elaboration space doesn't allow me to go into the details of the odd U.S. Post Office numbering system, but succinctness permits me only to say that there are no boxes numbered 8,9,10 or 16,17,18,19, 20 etc.

The other space involved in this review is the S.W. corner of the South Gallery adjacent to the Newton Room. Again eliminating the thumb tack collection display idea, we opted to pick up on an earlier concept and erect the old La-Z-Boy factory workbench as a permanent exhibit. I could say that the earlier concept had been “tabled” but that would be a poor use of valuable page space. We acquired this wonderfully aged and pock-marked workbench from the old La-Z-Boy museum when that was demolished a few years back.

Mike Nelligan and I built an appropriate raised floor for it – using century old tongue and groove floorboards. The European style worktable was originally from Weiss Manufacturing. It bears an incredible surface that can only be gained from decades of constant use. “Newer” drawers (made from Floral City Furniture crates) and tool trough indicate was probably re-built for the Floral City factory sometime in the late 20's/ early 1930s. This is a space well filled.

Respectfully submitted,
Gerald P. Wykes
Exhibits Coordinator





February 5, 2022

Monroe County Museum System Board of Trustees

Guest Services Division Report ♦ January 2022

January 2022 went by in a flash! This month was business as usual – invoices were submitted for payment, orders were placed, and deposits were made at the County Treasurer’s office. I am currently brainstorming different ways in which to collect visitor data, as well as eventually creating a database of visitors’ contact information for use in advertising.

First Fridays resumed with A Long Hibernation, a program that brought roughly 20 people to the Museum on January 7. Additionally, the *Curiosity Cart* was re-introduced to the main gallery on Saturday afternoons – we’ve noticed that people are visiting specifically to check it out (note: the sidewalk signs have been mentioned as one of the reasons people are visiting).

Ann Morris, Guest Services Specialist, is leaving for a different County position. Her last day was yesterday, January 4. Her position has been posted and interviews are being scheduled.

Submitted by Heather Piegza, Guest Services Coordinator

Monroe County Museum System Engagement Report - 2022

Monroe County Museum

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD Total
Visitation	163												163
Notes	The MCM is operating on a limited public schedule, currently Tuesday-Sunday. The Genealogical Society of Monroe County meets each Wednesday. The Frenchtown Spinners Guild meets on the third Thursday of each month.												

Monroe County Archives

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD Total
Visitation													0
Notes	The MCA is available by appointment only.												

Territorial Park

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD Total
Visitation	1293												1293
Notes	Visitation numbers are based on the vehicle counter at Papermill School.												

Vietnam Veterans Memorial

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD Total
Visitation	31*												0
Notes	Visitation numbers are based on the vehicle counter on site. *January numbers might not be accurate.												

Vietnam Veterans Museum

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD Total
Visitation	0												0
Notes	The VV Museum will open on Memorial Day Weekend and will be open on Saturdays, 10-4, through the end of September.												

Eby Log House

	July 31	August 1	August 2	August 3	August 4	August 5	August 6						YTD Total
Visitation													0
Notes													

St. Antoine's

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD Total
Visitation													0
Notes	No data exists as there is no vehicle counter on site.												

	Number of sites	Mean number of species per site	Mean number of individuals per site
Totals for all sites	60	7.8	19.2

[illegible]

Monroe County Museum System *In-Person/Virtual Programs* Engagement Report

[illegible]

Monroe County Museum System *Social Media* Engagement Report

Facebook

[illegible]

Instagram

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD Total
Accounts Reached	460												460
Content Interactions	67												67
Total Followers	686												686
Notes	January's most popular post: Jan 26 - Happy 185th Birthday to Michigan!												
	January's most popular post: Jan 19 - It's Museum Selfie Day!												

