

**FRIENDS OF THE SPRINGFIELD ARMORY NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
SECOND QUARTER MEETING – April 7, 2021 3:30pm-4:30pm**

In attendance:

Mr. Neil Daboul, President
Mr. John Diffley, Vice President
Mr. Roger Johnson, Treasurer
Mr. Joshua Clark, Secretary
Mr. Alex MacKenzie, Curator
Mr. Jim Controvich (by proxy)
Mr. Peter DeRose
Dr. Robert Ford

Meeting called to order at 3:34 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

Reading of the minutes was unanimously waived. *Motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Daboul. Passed unanimously.*

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT (by Mr. MacKenzie)

Mr. MacKenzie, reporting for Ms. Fellner, announced that the construction project is wrapping up. Plastic is being unwrapped from some of the exhibits/collections. The first floor and basement are being finished now; second and third floors are done. All of the walls on the first floor have been painted; floors are waxed and polished. Armory plans to open to the public by early July, dependent upon pandemic metrics. Plan for reopening is undecided, but the cautious plan is for a July opening. Larger events (Armory Day, big band concert, Big E) will be cancelled.

Mr. Daboul asked if in-person, small scale events (like Friends board meetings) could take place in the Armory, but Mr. MacKenzie was not sure about how occupancy will be handled. Mr. Johnson asked about a position regarding historic preservation at the Armory but Alex did not have any information on that position beyond what is in the posting. Dr. Ford asked about virtual tours and opening the museum exhibits up for an online tour; Mr. MacKenzie said that there were initiatives regarding accessibility but despite those initiatives, there are some challenges regarding getting virtual tours across the finish line, and that we should be considering how virtual tours fits into a strategic plan for the Friends group. Mr. Diffley asked about the next steps that need to happen so the Park and Friends group wants to collaborate on the Friends group strategic plan. Dr. Ford volunteered to assist the Board with strategic planning resources for board members.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Mr. Johnson sent the report out to the Board via email. Through March 31st, the beginning balance was \$19,937.32 with \$2,281.53 in income, \$1,000.00 was from George and Rose Daboul Endowment Fund, \$960.53 in dues, \$300.00 in a grant from Mass Cultural Council for

2020 Shays' Rebellion symposium. \$324.14 in expenses: \$159.27 for the Zoom subscription, \$72.00 for Massachusetts Commonwealth filing fees, \$5.60 in postage, \$16.61 for Paypal, and \$70.66 in miscellaneous expenses. For the George and Rose Daboul Endowment Fund, the balance is \$25,000.00. There is \$250.00, \$1,400.00, and \$2,156.00 in Armory controlled grants, respectively. *Motion to approve treasurer's report made by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Daboul. Passed unanimously.*

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Daboul met with Ms. Fellner to discuss the 2020 work plan, which is to be moved to 2021 due to the pandemic. There was also discussion regarding a grant plan for outstanding projects at the park. Mr. Daboul and Ms. Shera Cohen spoke about grant funding with regards to the outstanding projects; look at our work plan and seek grant funding based on what we would like to accomplish.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There are five people who the Membership Committee have identified as good for the Board of Directors: Dr. Robert Ford (social media and marketing); Ms. Shera Cohen (grant identification and application); Mr. Robert Bartlett (longstanding member of the Friends group); Mr. Andrew Stolinski (Springfield Armory archive researcher in MD); and Mr. Brian Downing (family connection to Armory and assistance with membership list). *Motion made by Mr. Clark and seconded by Mr. Johnson to empower the President to send a letter to those five individuals offering them a two-year term on the Board of Directors. Passed unanimously.*

Mr. Daboul asked about the list of folks who attended the 2020 Shays' Rebellion symposium. Mr. Johnson said he has the list and can send it to Mr. Daboul. Roger (and Josh) suggested that a letter/email can be sent to the 2020 attendees thanking them for attending the 2020 symposium and that the Friends/Armory are cautiously optimistic that there will be a 2022 symposium. A subcommittee was formed of John, Josh, Neil, Alex, and Roger to start the discussion on the 2022 symposium. John told the Board that STCC recently "de-flashed" the Shays' website, which is hosted on the STCC servers. Link: <https://www.stcc.edu/about-stcc/news/stcc-shays-rebellion-website-serves-as-valuable-resource-for-schools-historians.html> and <http://shaysrebellion.stcc.edu/>.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Daboul asked about whether we should start selling the challenge coins on the website to start generating revenue. Mr. Johnson mentioned that the cost should be equal to that of what it is being sold at the Armory, and that there would have to be a shipping and handling cost added, which could make it cost prohibitive. The Board resolved to leave challenge coin sales at the Armory gift shop.

Neil brought Revision #13 of the logo to the Board's attention. There was nothing to approve until the next meeting. Stationery and email templates were included in the package with the designers. There was a discussion about colors and similarity to the Springfield Armory Corp logo.

Alex asked about discussing the strategic plan collaboration with Kelly. There was a small subcommittee that could be formed.

*Motion made to adjourn the meeting made by Mr. Daboul and seconded by Mr. Clark. **Meeting adjourned at 4:41 p.m.***