

CONNECTICUT SUPREME COURT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

January 23, 2006

President Wes Horton called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm. Board members present included Kit Collier and Chuck Howard. Greg D'Auria arrived shortly thereafter. Also present were Justice Peter Zarella, Jeff White, Michael Shea, John Farley, and Mike Besso.

Mr. Collier moved the approval of the minutes of the December 13, 2005 Board meeting, and Mr. Howard seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the minutes were approved.

Mr. Howard reported that the Society had obtained its federal tax exemption, and that he could provide more information on that issue if anyone needed it. Mr. Horton stated that the main purpose of this meeting was to receive committee reports from committee chairs.

Mr. Besso distributed a written report on the activities of the Publications Committee (copy attached) and elaborated on it orally. He indicated that the Publications Committee had met on January 19th and had decided that it was committed to completing a publication in 2006. At this point, and subject to further discussion, it is anticipated that this would be in the nature of a journal, with a main or lead article and shorter pieces, possibly including book reviews. The committee contemplates that the lead articles would need to be reviewed by outside scholars, while a board of editors would be responsible for selecting the shorter pieces. He also raised the question of how the board of editors should be selected. Mr. Besso recommended that the Board of Directors appoint an editor-in-chief. Mr. Howard recommended that the remaining members of the board of editors be drawn from the Publications Committee. On the question of how prominent the editor-in-chief should be, Mr. Collier stated that while scholarly accomplishment is important for such a position, it typically goes to someone more junior who can devote time to it rather than to one of the most prominent people. No action was taken by the Board on these issues. Mr. Besso reported that the Publications Committee would like to devote the first issue of the journal to the origin and creation of the Supreme Court, and the Board agreed with this recommendation. The Board also agreed that Mr. Horton would prepare introductory comments. Mr. Besso indicated that his committee is exploring how the journal would be financed and what costs would be involved. In particular, he asked if law firms could be sponsors. Mr. Howard said that he would try to get an answer to this

question. On other matters, Mr. Besso reported that the committee had decided to adopt the history model citation style for the journal and that its next meeting would be on February 22, 2006.

Mr. Farley reported that the Fundraising Committee had met last week and focused on three issues: a general operations budget, special projects, and endowment. Their thinking is that the general operating budget would come from dues and regular fundraising activities. They hope to identify grants that could be used for special projects, and the endowment could be raised by corporate memberships and donations from regular members. The first priority, however, is raising the money for the journal. Mr. Farley indicated that he had reviewed the list of donors to the Connecticut Historical Society and the federal grants website. He also indicated that he would need more members for his committee and it was agreed by the Board that Mr. Horton could appoint additional members. Mr. Howard suggested that his committee have liaison members of the other committees so they would have a better sense of what other activities were being contemplated that might have an impact on finances. Other ideas being considered include an auction at the annual dinner, solicitations for donations on the website, and the possible sale of gifts or momentos.

Mr. D'Auria reported on website developments. He thanked both Jonathon Weiner and Melissa Farley for their work and indicated that if the Board approved, he could begin the process of putting the website on line and registering the domain name. He moved for authorization to register the domain name, Mr. Collier seconded the motion, and the motion carried. He indicated that Kim Knox had been in touch with him to discuss with local educators how to make the website appeal to youth and that he would be following up on this.

Mr. Shea presented the first part of the Program Committee report. The committee had met on January 12th, and had seven people present, including Judge Cohn. The Program Committee is tentatively contemplating having three events a year, one in winter, spring, and fall. It was agreed by the Board that the Program Committee should plan an event for fall, 2006. Mr. White continued the report on the two events planned for February and May. It was agreed that the committee should plan to have refreshments following the presentation by Judge Blue in February. In addition, it was agreed that the committee should have handouts at that event to save the day for the annual meeting event in May, which is currently scheduled for the Lawn Club in New Haven. It was hoped that an article could be put in the Connecticut Law Tribune publicizing the February 16 meeting, and that someone could speak at that meeting to solicit additional donations. Justice Zarella suggested that a letter be sent to everyone who attended the first meeting, and Mr. Horton said that he would do that. He would also try to send the letter to the Connecticut Bar Foundation member list.

There was no report from the Archive Committee, but an email (a copy of which is attached) was received.

On other matters, Justice Zarella and Mr. Horton agreed to coordinate to obtain stationery for the Society, and Mr. Besso would make contact with Professor Woodward to place an announcement of the Society's activities on the Hnetconnecticut listserv.

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for February 27th in the Lawyers lounge of the Supreme Court at 2:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles L. Howard,
Secretary