

CONNECTICUT SUPREME COURT

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

Board of Directors' Meeting--December 8, 2009

President Wes Horton called the meeting to order at 2:05 PM. Other Board members and committee chairs present were: Kit Collier, Barbara Heck, Chuck Howard, Molly LeVan, Michael Shea, Jeff White, Kathryn Calibey, Greg D'Auria, and Justice Zarella (ex officio).

Approval of the minutes of the meeting of September 16, 2009 was deferred until the next meeting.

Mr. Shea presented the treasurer's report, a copy of which is attached. After discussion, Mr. Collier moved that it be approved. Mr. Howard seconded the motion, which passed and the treasurer's report was approved.

Ms. Heck introduced Mike Widener, who has agreed to take her place as chair of the Archives Committee. Mr. Widener is the Rare Book Librarian at Yale Law School, where also serves as a lecturer in legal history. Ms. Heck further described his experience in rare books, his blog on rare books, and his experience with oral history. The board and committee chairs welcomed Mr. Widener. Mr. Horton suggested that Mr. Widener should meet with the State Librarian.

Mr. Horton expressed appreciation to Ms. Heck for her service to the Society. On motion made by Mr. Collier and seconded by Mr. Howard, the board unanimously expressed its appreciation to Ms. Heck and gave her its best wishes for her new work at Georgetown Law School.

Ms. Huddleston's report, a copy of which is attached, was presented on the next issue of the Journal. Mr. Horton reported that he had completed his article which he gave to Mr. Howard to forward to Ms. Huddleston.

In Mr. Farley's absence, Mr. Horton led a discussion on the draft survey of members that Mr. Farley had sent out by email prior to the meeting. There was general agreement that such a survey was a good idea. After discussion in which various suggestions were made to clarify the questions on the survey, Mr. Horton agreed to follow up with Mr. Farley to refine the questions. There was also general agreement with Mr. Farley's recommendation that membership renewals be in the form of invoices that can be completed and mailed in.

Mr. Horton reported for Mr. Lemega on the essay competition. Mr. Lemega has had some health issues and, while he could not be present for the meeting, he still wanted to lead the effort in this area. He indicated to Mr. Horton that he would be in contact with the various chairs of Connecticut colleges by year end.

Ms. LeVan and Mr. White reported for the Program Committee. Ms. LeVan said that the fall program on the Supreme Court building had been well received though more sparsely attended than we would have liked. She reported that Ginny Apple, one of the presenters, may become a member of the Society. She also noted that November 10, 2010 is the 100th anniversary of the Supreme Court and State Library building, and that was an occasion that we should consider for a special program for next fall. The Chief Justice and the State Librarian appear to be in support of a major celebration that could include a dinner in the museum and tours of the building. In the course of further discussion, additional suggestions were made, including making the celebration the focus of an edition of the Journal and inviting legislators to the celebration. There was also a consensus that a special committee to plan such an event would be necessary, and Mr. Horton and Mr. D'Auria agreed to represent the board on the committee. Justice Zarella said that he would contact the State Librarian and the Chief Justice to seek committee representatives from them.

In other matters, Ms. LeVan reported that she had had discussions with the representatives of the Old State House who had expressed a desire to hold a joint event. This is under consideration, though no definite plans have been made.

Mr. White reported on plans for the 2010 annual meeting. He indicated that there was general agreement that while Mr. Wood's presentation last year was good, it was too long and less accessible to general audiences than desirable for an after dinner speech. The Program Committee would like to invite Jeff Benedict to speak at the 2010 annual meeting. Mr. Benedict has written on the Kelo case (Little Pink House). This plan was endorsed by the board, and a budget of \$2,000-3,000 was approved for an honorarium. Mr. Collier suggested that the Committee also inquire about the rights to publish his presentation, and this generally seen as a good idea but not as important as it would have been last year, given the anticipated topic. Mr. D'Auria suggested that the Committee consider taping the presentation for inclusion on the website. There was general agreement that the best time for the annual meeting is mid-May and mid-week. If the Committee is unable to secure Mr. Benedict, their alternate plan is to approach former Rhode Island Supreme Court Justice Frank Williams, who previously has spoken on Abraham Lincoln in New England.

Mr. Collier reported that he had been contacted by Susan Lange on when the Society would be able to enter into an agreement to join the EBSCO database. Mr. Howard reported that he thought that Ms. Huddleston was still working with Mr. Besso to obtain copyright permissions for the first edition of the Journal. He said that he would follow up with Ms. Huddleston on this issue.

Mr. D'Auria reported on the website, indicating that he needed updates from the committee chairs on the activities of their committees. He also indicated that he was hoping to post abstracts of articles from the Journals and something about the essay competition. It was generally agreed that he would follow up with Melissa Farley to be able to post information as it develops on the 100th anniversary of the Supreme Court building.

Mr. Horton and Justice Zarella reported on the restoration of Justice Hamersley's bas-relief. The restoration was great and they will bring it to the next meeting. Plans should be made for a ceremony and perhaps an unveiling at the annual meeting.

The next meeting was scheduled for March 17, 2010 at 2:00 in the lawyer's lounge at the Supreme Court.

There being no further business, Mr. Horton adjourned the meeting at 3:10.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles L. Howard,

Secretary

Connecticut Supreme Court Historical Society
2009 Financial Accounting

December 8, 2009

I. Revenue

Member Renewals(257):	\$ 6,835.00 (approx.)	52 Nonrenewals	(\$ 2,600.00)
New Memberships(7)	\$ 350.00		
Donations:	\$ 130.00		
Interest:	\$ 10.13		
	<u>\$ 7,315.00</u>		

II. Events

October Fall Dinner:

Expenses:	<u>(\$ 1,003.73)</u>		
		Caterer	\$ 652.00
		Law Tribune Ads	\$ 250.00
		Speakers' gift	\$ 101.73
			<u>\$ 1,003.73</u>

III. Other Expenses

Hamersley Plaque	\$ 1,033.50		
Interoffice Envelopes	\$ 24.99		
Banking Fees	\$ 79.97		
		Gross Revenue:	\$ 7,315.00
		Expenses:	<u>(\$ 2,062.22)</u>

Account Balance: \$26,316.76

MEMORANDUM

To: Wesley W. Horton, President, Connecticut Supreme Court Historical Society

From: Sheila A. Huddleston

Re: Volume IV of *Connecticut Supreme Court History*

Date: December 8, 2009

Volume IV is still on track for publication in the spring of 2010. We currently have two articles in hand: a completed article by Larry Goodheart on Swift, the Peter Lung case, and capital punishment, and a substantial draft of a very interesting article by Henry Cohn on Swift and divorce in Connecticut. Promised articles include a short article by Wes Horton on the Court's practice of sitting in panels or en banc and an article by Bruce Stark on the court system in Swift's day, including a discussion of the kinds of court records that survive from that time. Bruce expects to send a draft to me later this month. Michelle Querijero is also working on an article on Swift's influence in modern times.