

**Wayland Historical Society  
Annual Meeting - May 14, 2025  
Wayland Town Building**

The Annual Meeting of the Wayland Historical Society was called to order by President Sherry Anne Bryant on May 14, 2025.

**President's Report**

Ms. Bryant welcomed attendees and noted that several items requiring member votes would be considered during the meeting, with each member entitled to one vote.

She expressed appreciation to several individuals for their service to the Society:

- Lynn Trimby for serving as Interim Treasurer
- Brad Keyes for his ongoing assistance with the HVAC system
- Elisa Scola for her work completing a partial term and her leadership on the Program Committee
- Jon Weintraub, Bonnie Gossels, and Cliff Lewis for their service as Trustees

**Treasurer's Report**

Lynn Trimby presented an overview of the Society's financial position for the year.

She reported that the new HVAC system cost approximately \$53,000. Funding assistance included approximately \$14,000 from the Wayland Community Preservation Act (CPA) Fund for a conservation assessment. Conservation funds were also used to install light-blocking shades.

For the current fiscal year, approximately \$5,000 is anticipated for House and Grounds expenses.

Ms. Trimby announced that after five years as Trustee and five years as Treasurer, she would be stepping down from her role.

**Trustee Report**

Bonnie Gossels presented the Trustee Report.

She noted that the Society's endowment includes three Vanguard funds. The 12-month return on the Vanguard investments was 5.4%, with a five-year annualized return of 10.5%.

Bonnie reported that the account had been converted to a brokerage account. The Trustees authorized a 4% draw from the endowment, noting that an additional \$30,000 endowment draw is not sustainable long term. She also reported that the Replacement and Growth Reserve had declined.

She highlighted that CPA Grant funding and a Massachusetts Cultural Council grant paid for the replacement HVAC system, which both protects artifacts in the house and improves working conditions within the building.

Ms. Gossels concluded by recognizing Lynn Trimby for her years of service, which was met with a standing ovation from attendees.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the previous Annual Meeting were approved unanimously.

### **Bylaw Amendments**

Vicki LaFarge reviewed proposed bylaw changes.

She explained that:

- Article 4 would change the start of the Society's fiscal year to October, as September is an especially busy month.
- The number of Directors would increase from six to nine in order to build organizational strength, broaden skill sets, and strengthen flexibility within the organization.
- Article 14 would change Trustee terms from one-year appointments to staggered three-year terms at the request of the Nominating Committee, allowing for greater continuity and effectiveness.

Ms. LaFarge thanked Anette Lewis for serving as legal counsel and assisting with the bylaw language.

A motion to approve the bylaw amendments was made and seconded. The motion passed with 21 votes in favor and none opposed.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Ms. Bryant announced that the Society welcomed its first Executive Director, Scarlett Hoey, in November.

Ms. Hoey spoke about her appreciation for being part of the community and reflected that "memory is the treasury and guardian of all things." She emphasized the Society's role in preserving the collective memory and diverse stories of Wayland.

She highlighted several current and upcoming initiatives, including:

- The Rail Trail signage project, incorporating Jane Sciacca's research on enslaved individuals in Wayland
- Efforts to pursue federal compliance standards for Mansion Inn artifacts

- Continued partnerships with the Wayland Library and new collaborations with ArtsWayland and the Human Rights Committee
- Monthly Sunday Celebrations
- Participation in Wayland Day on October 4
- A Quilt Fundraiser planned for Friday, October 17
- Continuation of the First Day Walk, launched on January 1
- An upcoming talk by Evangeline Simpson

### **Curator's Report**

Curator Kay Gardner-Westcott presented the Curator's Report.

She described the importance of uncovering hidden stories within the Society's collections and noted that oral histories can disappear within three generations if not preserved.

Ms. Gardner-Westcott emphasized the value of recording everyday experiences and reminded attendees that daily life today is creating tomorrow's history. She encouraged community members to share their stories with the Historical Society so they may be preserved for future generations.

### **Election of Directors and Trustees**

Gretchen Schuler presented the slate of nominees on behalf of the Nominating Committee.

She reported that the committee met several times and that the slate had been approved by the Board prior to presentation to the membership.

The following nominees were presented:

- Elisa Scola and Michele Davidson for three-year terms as Directors
- Lynn Trimby, Jon Weintraub, and Cliff Lewis for three-year terms as Trustees of Funds

A motion to approve the slate was made and seconded. The motion passed with 21 votes in favor and none opposed.

### **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made and approved.

The meeting was adjourned.