

**FRIENDS OF LAWRENCE HERITAGE STATE PARK  
25th ANNUAL MEETING  
October 25, 2023**

**MINUTES**

**I. Call to Order**

Following lunch, the meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. by Interim President Jim Beauchesne who welcomed board members, guests and friends.

**II. Secretary's Report**

- a. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of October 26, 2022  
*The minutes from October 26, 2022 were unanimously accepted as printed.*

**III. Treasurer's Report:**

Treasurer Susan Grabski presented a printed report (on file with the Secretary's report), showing a balance as of today's date of \$7,394.98. She noted that the Friends are awaiting a final \$2,000 payment from Mass Humanities *Expand Massachusetts Stories* grant for the now completed exhibit project, *Somos Latinos*. The Bicknell Clock Reserve Fund has a balance of \$1,918.28. The report was received and placed on file for the Audit Committee.

**IV. Bylaws Amendment**

The amendment allows for the addition of Vice Chairperson:

**Section 2. VICE CHAIRPERSON. The Vice Chairperson of the Board will**

- a) Carry out special assignments as requested by the board chairperson;
- b) Understand the responsibilities of the board chairperson and be able to perform these duties in the chairperson's absence in the case of absence, illness or sudden resignation.

*The Bylaws amendment was unanimously accepted by the membership.*

**V. Report from Nomination Committee**

Approval of Board Slate

The following slate was presented by the Nominating Committee:

Officers

President – Jim Beauchesne  
Vice President – Tom Spitalere  
Secretary – Anne Benedix \*

Directors

Jonathan Guzman  
JoAnne McConaughy  
Joseph Ponti  
Jurg Siegenthaler  
Phyllis Tyler

\* one (1) year term

Nominations from the floor were requested. *There being none, the above slate was elected unanimously and will serve for two (2) years, unless otherwise noted.*

Recognition of Outgoing Board Members

John McDermott was thanked for his service to the board.

VI. **Membership Report:** Susan Grabski reported that we have 80 paid members and 1,121 Facebook followers.

VII. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**2023 Highlights:** Jim Beauchesne recognized and thanked board members for their faithful support and cooperation throughout the year and highlighted the following activities:

- June 11, 2023 – Opening of the exhibit *Somos Latinos* in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor gallery space was a huge success. The exhibit was funded, in part, by Mass Humanities and will be traveling in the region. It is currently on display at the Lawrence Public Library.
- June 3, 2023 – SALSA Festival (One trolley)
- July 4<sup>th</sup> – Old-Fashioned 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration
- September 4, 2023 – Bread and Roses Trolley Tours (Two trolleys)

Jim thanked outgoing Park Supervisor David Deas for his service to LSHP and presented him with an engraved clock as a show of our thanks and appreciation. Kyle Clark has been hired as the new Park Supervisor.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Jonas Stundzia presented a letter to the membership (on file) in which he suggests that an American Flag be placed at the LHSP guest reception desk to “promote patriotism and respect for the flag.” In the letter he also directed concern (to guest speaker Jaime Melendez specifically) regarding the possible ‘renaming’ of street corner dedications to veterans. He hopes that the LHSP will develop new walking tours” to talk about who Lawrence veterans were” and to “save our heritage... embrace our pride in Lawrence.”
- Today’s guest speaker was scheduled to be Jaime Melendez, the city of Lawrence’s Director of Veterans’ Services. Jaime, unfortunately, was not able to attend.

Anne M. Benedix, Secretary