



Portsmouth Athenaeum
204th Annual Meeting

THE PORTSMOUTH ATHENÆUM

204th Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 15, 2023

3 p.m.

In the Shaw Research Library and Via Zoom platform

Agenda

- Welcome by the President
 - Approval of Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting
 - Necrology 2022
- Finances
 - Report of the Treasurer
 - Report from the Finance Committee
 - Approval of 2024 Assessment
- Reports on the Year
 - Report of the Keeper
 - Report of the President
- Report of the Nominating Committee
- Election of Officers and Directors
- Recognition of outgoing Directors
- Other Business
- Adjournment

Please note that Subscribers, spouses, and partners are welcome at the Annual Meeting, but only Proprietors may vote. The minutes, financial report, nominating report, and other annual reports for 2022 will be available at <https://portsmouthathenaeum.org/about-us/> by January 12.

THE PORTSMOUTH ATHENAEUM

Minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 16, 2022, at 3:00 pm

1. **Call to Order:** President Brad Lown called the 203rd meeting of the Proprietors of the Portsmouth Athenaeum to order at 3:00 pm. He asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the 202nd annual meeting. Hearing none, the minutes were approved.
2. **Necrology:** Brad Lown read the names of the Proprietors and former Proprietors who died in 2021. A moment of silence was held to honor those we lost during the year.
3. **Approval of Revised Bylaws:** President Lown described the long process of creating modern bylaws for the organization involving Proprietors, committees, and outside experts. He outlined the significant changes then asked Sally Gayer to describe the process in detail. She thanked Maryellen Burke, Peter Berg, Chuck Doleac, David Ellis, Don Margeson, and Ronan Donahoe for their help in reviewing multiple drafts. Ellie Sanderson moved to approve the bylaws, Peter Rice seconded. John Shaw asked if in section 4 there is an inconsistency in the 14-day notice for a special meeting. President Lown said that would have to be addressed in a future meeting to amend the approved draft then called the question. 68 voted for and 2 opposed and the motion carried.
4. **Finances:**
 - A. **Report of the Treasurer:** Treasurer Jeff Keefe presented the financial summary for 2020, noting that it was a year of growth. He reiterated that the COVID-19 pandemic brought a lingering decrease in rental revenue from the Irish Shop, though it was up 12% from 2020 and will continue to rise in 2022. We also received a second fully-forgiven PPP loan of \$40,900. He noted that Tom Hardiman and Stephanie Tabit keep a frugal eye on expenditures. For the second year in a row our strongest fiscal support came from the Proprietors, with a near record-high response to the 2021 Annual Fund campaign, raising \$114,922, with an additional \$106,084 in unrestricted contributions. As a result, we ended 2021 in a strong cash flow position. Total annual revenue was \$578,821, and total expenses were \$393,422, for a positive net income of \$206,672.
5. **Report of the Investment Committee:** Treasurer Jeff Keefe reported that after a difficult first quarter, the Athenaeum investment portfolio had a strong finish, up from a beginning value of \$1.983M to a year end value of \$2.126M. This represents a net gain of \$206,026, net of fees, delivering an investment result of 11.7%, also net of fees. Going forward, the current allocation of the investment portfolio is 60% equities, 40% cash and fixed income. Jeff thanked his fellow committee members, Steve Desmarais, Gail Drobnyk, and Lorn Buxton for their time and effort over the year. Jeff summarized, noting that as a direct result of the Proprietors' generosity, we were able to grow our bottom line by \$337,000, a 10% increase.
6. **Approval of the 2023 Assessment:** Richard Candee moved to approve the 2023 Assessment, which will remain unchanged at \$250; Peter Rice seconded; motion passed.
7. **Report of the Keeper:** Keeper and Executive Director Tom Hardiman addressed the membership with thanks for the leadership of Brad and Sally and the excellent work of the Governance Committee and staff. He listed a number of serious challenges that the Athenaeum faced in 2022, but noted that we don't have the benefit of hindsight to know if these are really catastrophes or merely pivot points to a better future. "In December of 1802, when fire destroyed everything between the State House in Market Square and the Moffat Ladd house, the New Hampshire Gazette reported: "The whole beauty of the town is gone! is gone!!!" What was rebuilt from the ashes, including our magnificent building at 9 Market Square, now

defines the very beauty and appeal of Portsmouth.” He stated that the Athenaeum was turning the page to new chapter in its history and the best part of our story is yet to come.

8. Report of the President: President Brad Lown addressed the membership noting the difficulty of promoting convivial interchange and intellectual discourse in a time of pandemic when it is difficult to get people together and he looks forward to having more chances to meet together in the coming year. He thanked Tom Hardiman for his helpfulness and institutional memory. He told an anecdote of an accomplished new member, John Chamberlain, who is a great bibliophile and who has given an unprecedented gift to the Athenaeum. He thanked the board for their patience of working through the process of meeting via Zoom sometimes and in person at other times, and commended the good work that had been done.

9. Report of the Nominating Committee: Committee Chair Maryellen Burke presented the following slate of 2022 Officers and Directors:

President (to 2024)	2 year term	Sally Gayer
Vice President (to 2024)	2 year term	Margaret F. Hodges
Secretary (to 2023)	1 year term	Richard G. Adams
Treasurer (to 2023)	1 year term	Jeffrey W. Keefe
For Director (to 2025)	3 year term	Ann Beattie
For Director (to 2025)	3 year term	Susan Lassen
For Director (to 2025)	3 year term	Rear Admiral Craig Steidle
For Director (to 2024)	2 year term	Curtis H. Springer
For Director (to 2024)	2 year term	Anne Weidman

Maryellen thanked Don Margeson and Ronan Donohoe for their service on the nominating committee. Richard Candee moved to accept the slate of 2022 nominees, seconded by Ellen Fineberg; the motion passed unanimously. President Sally Gayer offered thanks to outgoing board members Peter Tarlton, Ellen Fineberg, Sandra Rux, Lynne Crocker, and Steve Roberts.

10. Old Business: Peter Randall asked why the Building Committee has not replaced the 70 year-old toilet in the Reading Room when two Proprietors have offered to pay for the work. Sally suggested that this should be forwarded to the Building Committee.

11. Adjournment: There being no further business, Brad Lown moved to adjourn, seconded by Curt Spriger. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard G. Adams
Secretary

In Memoriam 2022

Frank L. Dennett	Share 39
Barbara Hill	Share 312
William Dean Howells III	Share 377
Jane Molloy Porter	Share 88
Edmund Tarbell III	Share 115
John Udaloy	Share 84
Judith E. Day	Formerly share 65
Frederick S. Gray, Jr.	Formerly share 64
Sarah Hamill	Formerly share 130
D. Bruce Montgomery	Formerly share 324
Frank J. Cilluffo	Spouse share 205

Portsmouth Athenaeum 2022 Preliminary Financial Summary

REVENUE:	2022 Preliminary	2021 Actual
Proprietor Assessments	\$ 109,458	\$ 106,754
Annual Appeal	\$ 69,930	\$ 114,922
Miscellaneous Contributions	\$ 72,856	\$ 106,084
Investment Income	\$ 116,012	\$ 131,964
Other Operating Income	\$ 95,877	\$ 114,426
Gain (Loss) on Sale of Investments	\$ (35,472)	\$ 77,241
Receipts for Special Purposes	\$ 63,519	\$ 32,133
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(including gifts and grants)	\$ 492,180	\$ 683,524
EXPENDITURES:		
Staff & Related Costs	\$ 234,015	\$ 210,491
Collections	\$ 24,947	\$ 26,105
Utilities	\$ 17,927	\$ 45,294
Building, Maintenance & Renovations	\$ 51,984	\$ 37,873
Insurance, Office, Printing	\$ 57,532	\$ 49,222
Depreciation	\$ 51,878	\$ 49,464
Special Purpose Expenditures	\$ 35,999	\$ 24,287
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	\$ 474,282	\$ 442,736
NET SURPLUS	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
	\$ 17,898	\$ 240,788
ENDOWMENTS & RESERVE ADDITIONS:		
Reserve Additions	\$ 15,000	\$ 7,225
Balance Sheet		
ASSETS:		
Cash, including Savings Reserves	\$ 601,230	\$ 560,342
Invested Funds	\$ 1,813,876	\$ 2,123,498
Accounts Receivable	\$ 62	\$ 562
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 6,928	\$ 7,301
Fixed Assets	\$ 1,108,861	\$ 1,102,350
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	\$ 3,530,957	\$ 3,794,053
LIABILITIES:		
Prepaid Proprietor/Subscriber Assessments	\$ 65,100	\$ 60,000
Deferred Income	\$ -	\$ 19,713
Security Deposit	\$ 4,398	\$ 4,398
Accounts Payable	\$ -	\$ 1,107
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	\$ 69,498	\$ 85,218
NET ASSETS	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
	\$ 3,461,459	\$ 3,708,835

Nominating Committee Report to the Board:

Rotating off:

Thank you for your service:

1. Ed Caylor
2. Jan Dinan
3. Mark McNabb

We put forth this slate of Directors and Officers for the proprietors to approve at the annual meeting in January, 2023. New Members each for a three year term:

Christine Friese, Director of the Portsmouth Public Library. Christine has been a proprietor since 2016 and inherited her share from her father, George Friese, [from whom she also inherited her love of history and of Portsmouth](#). {George also served on the Board} She lives in Dover, and moved here from Vermont in 2014 to be the assistant library director of the city. In that capacity, she coordinated daily operations and administration, directed supervisors, and built and maintained strong community partnerships through outreach to internal and external audiences. She now runs our beloved public library as its leader since [March 2022](#).

Alan Gold has been a proprietor since 2011 and is a long-time active member of the Portsmouth community. He is currently the vice-chairman of the Economic Development Commission, the president of the board for Pinetree Institute, and is an active member of the Portsmouth Chamber Collaborative. Alan also served on the board of the Seacoast Repertory Theatre and Art-Speak.

Professionally, Alan is a career marketing executive, as well as a strategy and change management consultant. He has worked to grow start-up businesses and public companies in a wide range of industries. He has an MBA from Boston College and a BA from Brandeis University. Alan has a lifelong love of history, learning and bad puns. He lives in the South end of Portsmouth with his wife, Susan.

Don Margeson, is a long time proprietor and Portsmouth native. Formerly active on the Governance committee. He was a stalwart in helping the revisions of our bylaws. He has been the fearless chair of our Lecture committee. He has also served on the city cemetery committee. Donald's father, Donald, was one of the owners of Margeson's Furniture store in downtown.

Our current Donald spent his career as a professional with the New Jersey Legislature's nonpartisan staff, the Office of Legislative Services. He drafted and prepared analyses of legislation, served as the aide to two committees -- the second was the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee, and supervised one of the OLS sections. After 35 years, Donald retired and returned to Portsmouth and the home he grew up in from birth until graduating from Portsmouth High School. We are very grateful he chooses the Athenaeum as one of his main retirement activities. He lives next to Strawberry Banke in the south end with his wife and 2 sons.

Board Officers:

1. Sally Gayer, President
2. Peggy Hodges, VP
3. Jeff Keefe, Treasurer. NOTE: Jeff will become President in January 2024
4. Dick Adams, Secretary

January 9, 2023

Submitted by Maryellen Burke

Report of the Admissions Committee 2022

The admissions committee met six times in 2022 and unanimously agreed to recommend the following for Subscriber:

Thomas “Buddy” Bardenwerper is a published author, a law student and former US Coast Guard officer with an interest in maritime history. He lives in Cambridge with his wife, Alexandra. He is endorsed by Charles Bickford, Sam Reid, and Matthew Miller.

John P. Bohenko is the former City Manager of Portsmouth and lives here with his spouse Nancy. He is very interested in history and the local community and is recommended by Daniel Hoefle, Gary Ghigliotti, and Curt Springer.

Thomas Boulter is a manager for Eversource and a commercial pilot and flight instructor. He lives in Nottingham with his spouse Deirdre and is interested in doing archival research in the library. He is endorsed by Anne Weidman, Markus Schaff, and Brylye Collins.

Gregory R. Brackett is a retired Senior Vice President of Gulf Insurance/ CitiGroup and Events Manager for Strawberry Banke. He is a longtime Friend of the Athenaeum living in Stratham and is endorsed by Elizabeth Farish, Don Margeson, and Rodney Rowland.

Tom D. Burleigh is a wealth advisor and financial planner at CMH Wealth Management, who lives in West Newberry with his wife, Mikala and is interested in family, community, outdoor activities, and learning activities. He is endorsed by Anne Weidman, Peter Rice, and Peggy Hodges.

Robert W. Butler is the founder of RBF Investment Advisors and lives in Alton Bay with his wife, Sue. He is very interested in the history of New Hampshire and is endorsed by Richard Candee, Peter Randall, and John Shaw.

Philip C. Carling, M.D. is physician and immunology specialist with a love of antiquarian books and manuscripts. He has been voluntarily creating archival book enclosures for the Athenaeum’s rare books for three years. He lives in Hingham and is endorsed by Peter Cook, Tom Hardiman, and Sally Gayer

Daniel J. Cassidy is a Subcontract Program Manager with Sikorsky Aircraft and lives with his wife, Elizabeth in Middletown, CT. He is interested American history, maps, travel, and biking and is recommended by Brad Lown, Sally Strazdens, Stan Davis, and Dr. Ed Rowan.

C. Sean Clancy is Assistant City Manager for Economic Development in Portsmouth, where he lives with wife Michaela and pursues his interest in economic and community development and civic engagement. He is endorsed by Stephanie Secord, Anne Weidman, and Tom Watson.

Dr. (Avnish) Neil Clerk is an orthopedic surgeon at Exeter Hospital and with degrees from eight prestigious universities. He lives in North Hampton with his wife, Sherri, and is interested in history, preservation, and civic engagement. He is endorsed by Porter Davis, Eric Gregg, and Jason Kroll..

Bryleye Rose Collins is the owner of a talent acquisition and coaching business who is also a triathlete and supporter of Women's Rights, Spirituality, and enjoys photography and historical architecture. She lives in Rochester and is recommended by Anne Weidman, Margaret Hodges, and Peter Rice.

Katherine Colleen Cook is a Portsmouth City Councilor and self-employed consultant. She is interested in historic preservation, jazz music, visual arts, poetry, and foreign affairs. She lives in Portsmouth with her husband, Dr. Ernest Podrasky and is endorsed by Andrew Bagley, Anne Weidman, and Brian Gibb.

Duncan A. Edgar is and Attorney in Portsmouth with a life-long interest in the city's history. He comes recommended by Cathy Hodson, Daniel Hoefle, Sally Gayer, and Stephen Roberts.

Kenneth R. Goldman is a retired engineer from the Naval Surface Warfare Center and is interested in clocal history and photography. He lives in Portsmouth with his wife, Barbara Sadick, and is endorsed by Andrew Bagley, Brian Gibb, and Anne Weidman.

D. Allan Kerr is a Revenue Officer with the US Treasury Department and a local historian of note. He lives in Kittery with his wife, Nicole, and is recommended by Tom Hardiman, Stephanie Secord, and Sam Reid.

Jacob Anthony Lehoux is a software engineer with Wayfair and is interested in sailing, basketball, scuba diving, and enhancing the prosperity of the Portsmouth community. He lives in Portsmouth with his spouse, Paige Galvin, and is endorsed by Andrew Bagley, Anne Weidman, and Alan Gold.

John Edward Leland is an aircraft maintenance technician and President of Leland Aero Service. He is interested in flying, golf, hiking, and history. He lives in Portsmouth with his wife, Linda, and is recommended by Andrew Bagley, Anne Weidman, and Brian Gibb.

Kathleen B. Logan is a pharmaceutical sales representative who is keenly interested in historic house research. She lives in Portsmouth and is recommended by Susan Lassen, Edward P. Thompson, and Peter Tarlton.

Dr. John R. Logan is an extensively published professor od Sociology at Brown University, currently studying Portsmouth's urban development history. He lives in Portsmouth with his spouse, Gwen Guillet, and is endorsed by Richard Candee, Ellen Fineberg, and James Smith.

Alyssa M. Murphy is an architect working and living in Portsmouth with her husband, Brian, and is interested in dance and literature. Se is eager to be involved with the Athenaeum's historical mission of "mutual improvement," and is recommended by John Mayer, Maryellen Burke, and Anne Weidman.

Martha A. Netsch is an executive with the Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains. She is interested in history, hiking, kayaking, reading, and researching the history of the greater Portsmouth area. She lives in Portsmouth with her husband, Matt Madeira, and is endorsed by Steve Roberts, Mark McNabb, and Brad Lown.

Clare Mary O'Brien is a lawyer interested in reading, cinema, and history, and who has a long history of community involvement. She lives in Portsmouth with her husband, Charles Doane, and is endorsed by Susan Lassen, Tom Watson, and Jeff Bolster.

Nancy Elizabeth Pearson is founder and CEO at Mind the Gap LLC. She is interested in Portsmouth history and wants to share that with others through education and community events. She is recommended by Anne Weidman, Reagan Reudig, and Andrew Bagley.

David J. Pepson is retired from the US Department of Energy and lives in Portsmouth with his wife, Maureen. He is intensely interested in Portsmouth history, especially the Warner House, and is endorsed by Curt Springer, Sooky Lassen, and Bob Barth.

Kristen L. Peterson is a bank loan officer in Portsmouth who regularly volunteers in the Athenaeum library. She is interested in local history, art, and preservation, and is endorsed by Katherine Kane, Andrew Bagley, and James Smith.

David B. Reudig is a retired financial advisor and current President of the New Hampshire Historical Society. He lives in Concord with his wife Mary and is recommended by Robert Chase, Ellen Fineberg, and Reagan Reudig.

David M. Rheume is a Production Facilities Manager at PNSY and lives in Portsmouth with his spouse, Beth Moreau. He is very interested in Portsmouth history, Military and PNSY history, Portsmouth history and architecture, and is recommended by Anne Weidman, Andrew Bagley, and Reagan Reudig.

Peter van Egmond Rossbach is a renewable energy developer based in New Castle. He is interested in history, opera, and politics and is endorsed by Brad Lown and John Shaw.

Sharyn P. Rothstein is a writer and professor with interests in local history, sociology, drama, and poetry. She lives in Kittery with her spouse, Jeff Lesh and is recommended by Andrew Bagley, Anne Weidman, and Larry Yerdon.

Andrew C. Samonas is a real estate broker in Portsmouth with interests in local history, and community. She is recommended by Andrew Bagley, Anne Weidman, and Karen Bouffard.

Markus Arthur Schaaf is Program Manager at Accenture and is interested in local government, history, culture, Spanish language, and tennis. He lives in Portsmouth with his spouse, Arielle Bean, and is recommended by David Splaine, Anne Weidman, and Sally Gayer.

Albert E. "Buzz" Scherr is professor of law at the University of New Hampshire and is interested in colonial history and gardening. He lives in Portsmouth with his wife, Susan, and is endorsed by Tom Watson, John Lyons, and Kim Meyers.

Scott A. Scott is a tax assessor with the City of Portsmouth, where he lives with his wife, Alexandra. He is interested in reading, history, science, athletics, and real estate and is endorsed by Anne Weidman, Andrew Bagley, and Stephanie Seacord.

Louise Williams, Esq. is an International Economic Development Consultant with interests in women's economic participation and development and historic preservation. She is recommended by Thomas Coleman, Irene Bush, and Peter Peirce Rice.

Tatiana Czaplicki Young is an attorney with interests in history, music, arts, theater, world and domestic travel. She is recommended by Andrew Bagley, Anne Weidman, and Brian Gibb.
Gary Ghigliotti, Chair

Art and Artifacts Collection Committee

Annual Report – 2022

Out of an abundance of caution, 2022 was once again a quiet year for the Art and Artifacts Collection Committee. Most of our committee work was done by email, but there were regular work days in the Athenaeum building. Most of the work was centered on the care of the collection, which, of course, is a never-ending project. We also continued to monitor the temperature and humidity in the buildings to aid in the environmental care of the collections.

The major conservation project for the year was that of two small paintings on artist board of local scenes. These paintings, bought on eBay, were by an unidentified artist, but they were framed by Montgomery's Music and Art of Portsmouth. One painting depicts the Thomas Sheafe Coffin house, which stood where the Carey Cottage at Creek Farm now stands. The other shows a woman crossing a small bridge over an unidentified creek. The paintings are currently on exhibit in the Old Library.

One of the year's highlights was the discovery on a beam in the attic of the 1805 building of two very long wooden spears. One spear was marked "590" which identified it as a spear from Tubuai given by John Collings Long in 1827. The other is presumably number 591, which was also listed as a spear from Tubuai. The spears had possibly been stored in the attic when the artifact collections were reorganized in the 1890s and have been there ever since. Because of their length and because of the placement of the elevator shaft, there is currently no easy way to move them out of the attic.

The model of the HMS *America* was included in an article written by Rob Napier and me. It appeared in *A History of Portsmouth NH in 101 Objects*, published as part of the celebration of the 400th anniversary of Portsmouth.

We received three gifts this year:

Two crayon photographs of George Bigelow Chase and his wife, Anne Lowndes Chase – Gift of Anne Chase and Robert Healy

A portrait of John Haven. This is a late 19th -century copy of the Gilbert Stuart portrait of Haven. The painting will undergo conservation in 2023. – Gift of Henrietta Trantum

Two silver Haven Medals, awarded to David E. Junkins in 1868 and 1869 – Gift of Kevin Lafond

We have a promised future gift of a watercolor portrait of Bruce Ingmire from his brother.

Next year we will loan three of our South Pacific artifacts given by John Collings Long to the New Bedford Whaling Museum for their exhibit, "Yankee Whaling and the US Navy."

The members of the committee are Elizabeth Aykroyd, Douglas Aykroyd, Alan Bennett, Pat Breslin, Cathy Hodson, Rebecca Mitchell, Tara Vose Raiselis, Steve Roberts, Carolyn Roy, Sandra Rux, Elaine Tefft, Hilda Versluys, and Tom Hardiman, Keeper.

Elizabeth Aykroyd
Chair

1.9.2023

Annual Report of the Performance Committee for 2022

This year the Performance Committee of the Athenaeum presented a full program of concerts to consistently enthusiastic audiences. We thus made a strong recovery from the difficulties of the last two years occasioned by the onset of COVID-19. We are grateful to all those friends of the Athenaeum whose contributions supported this outstanding season.

Portsmouth Athenaeum Chamber Music Series (PACM)

Thanks to the support of 53 generous patrons, numerous subscribers and the broader public, we organized four concerts this year. They were:

August 28 Noree Chamber Soloists, Kittery Dance Hall
September 18 RASA String Quartet, St. John's Church
October 2 Music Haven String Quartet, South Church
October 16 ASMI Trio, St. John's Church

The average attendance was 70-80 people per concert. The music was of the highest quality and deeply appreciated by our knowledgeable and engaged audiences. Each performance was followed by a reception for patrons who were afforded an opportunity to meet the musicians.

As has become customary, the concert series was also a significant financial success. The total income received was \$16,380 while expenses amounted to \$15,078. Thus, after all accounts were settled, we transferred an end-of year surplus of \$1,302 to the Athenaeum.

ArtsAthenaeum Concerts

The ArtsAthenaeum program originated many years ago with a memorial concert given each year to honor recently deceased Athenaeum proprietors. We continued this tradition by presenting the annual Memorial Concert on June 12 at St. John's Church. The player was Sebastian Baverstam who gave an engrossing and deeply moving tribute with a selection of pieces played on the cello.

The Athenaeum supports the ArtsAthenaeum concert series primarily as a program for its members and friends. Accordingly, Peter Griggs gave a concert in the Sawtelle Reading Room on April 8. His guitar recital was enjoyed by a full house of Athenaeum supporters.

The third ArtsAthenaeum concert this year was intended as a free gift to the Portsmouth community. This took the form of a Holiday Concert performed by the Portsmouth Symphony Brass Quintet at South Church on December 16. It was a rousing occasion with wonderful seasonal music, and an outreach triumph. Nearly 100 people attended, including familiar faces from our other concerts and many others, families with children among them, from the wider community. Many generous audience members gave a remarkable \$576 in donations to help cover our costs.

The ArtsAthenaeum series is underwritten by a subvention of \$5,000 from Athenaeum funds. This year the expenses of \$3,110 were almost fully covered by gifts and other contributions from generous friends amounting to \$2,914. Thus, the actual cost to the Athenaeum was \$196.

The Work of the Committee

The Performance Committee has met, usually monthly, throughout the year to plan and present this program of concerts. During the first half of the year Dr. William Wieting chaired the committee. Then Andrew Moore took over for the fall. The other members of the committee were President Sally Gayer, Kristin Goodwillie, Sharon Griffin, Linda Posson, Alice and Chris White, and Keeper Tom Hardiman *ex officio*. Everyone contributed their outstanding talents and considerable efforts to ensure the successful outcome of the concert program. Through its work the Performance Committee not only provides musical programs of extraordinary quality for members and friends of the Athenaeum, it also enriches the cultural life of Portsmouth. It thus makes a substantial contribution to the outreach efforts of the Athenaeum as expressed in its mission.

Respectfully submitted.

Andrew Moore
Chair

2022 ANNUAL REPORT FOR ATHENAEUM PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Committee members: Dick Adams, Douglas Aykroyd, Donald Margeson, Peggy Hodges, Kimberly Alexander, Sherry Wood.

The newsletter remains a primary connection point for the Athenaeum membership, focusing on events and community outreach, as well as little-known aspects of our beloved library and museum.

Dick Adams continued his decade-plus tradition of writing Athenaeum Arcana, reminding us of a 1908 Mark Twain visit to Portsmouth, the Athenaeum's evolution into an archival repository and its resulting space needs. Douglas Aykroyd explored Athenaeum mysteries, including a tale of two spears and a pair of discovered paintings. Don Margeson introduced us to President Sally Gayer and a number of new board members, and also profiled volunteer Joan Hammond.

Photographic Collections Manager James Smith's "Scene on Social Media" articles invited us to see his frequent and fascinating Facebook and Instagram posts on Portsmouth history. One of those posts led to an interview of Puddle Dock's Sherman Pridham that Smith conducted with Sherry Wood for the monthly At the Athenaeum column in the Portsmouth Herald.

We were introduced to Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator Stephanie Rohwer Hewson and Assistant Librarian June Seymour Spezzano. We said farewell to former Athenaeum Keeper Jane Molloy Porter (1931-2022) and to Phineas Graphics, which donated its ephemera archives and books to our collections after a long and fruitful association with the Athenaeum.

We also learned of the Athenaeum membership's many contributions to the Portsmouth 400th anniversary book, "A History of Portsmouth NH in 101 Objects." The Athenaeum Chamber Music Series was highlighted, along with the 2022 Lecture Series, "Portsmouth's Evolution: 1623-2023." The Proprietors Show, annual picnic and holiday concert were also featured.

A special volunteer section in the fall 2022 newsletter highlighted the need for more gallery sitters, and appeals from the Social Committee and Lecture Committee for membership. A summer excursion to the Wood Island Life Saving Station helped reveal the Athenaeum's role in the station's successful quest to be designated for the National Register of Historic Places.

Coverage of the exhibits "Standing Together: Seacoast LGBTQ+ Social and Support Groups" and "George S. Wasson, Artist and Author of Kittery Point" drew visitors to the Randall Gallery.

Thanks go to Executive Director Tom Hardiman, Susan K. Hamilton and other newsletter contributors including Lauren Gallant, Ronan Donohoe, Irene Bush of the Program Committee, Chris and Alice White and the Performance Committee, Judy Groppa of the Exhibits Committee, Cindy Knapp of the Social Committee and former Portsmouth Press photographer Jane Tyska.

Special thanks to newsletter designer Tom Lynch, who navigated our transition to a new printer.

Newsletter deadlines are March 15, June 15 and Oct. 1. Contributions and queries may be directed to Editor Sherry Wood at sixswords@aol.com.

Respectfully submitted,
Publications Committee Chairman Sherry Wood

2022 Annual Report Athenaeum Social Committee

Your Social Committee has had a very exciting year!

This past year the Social Committee progressed from meeting via all Zoom meetings in 2021, to meeting in person in August 2022, finally!

We met seven times. We also met, via Zoom, for an emergency meeting, seven days prior to the scheduled Annual Picnic, to discuss our options, given the untimely news that the Seacoast Science Center had to cancel our use of their permanent tent site on August 30th.

We welcomed new members, Joan Hammond and Kathleen Logan, to our committee this year. Their energetic involvement has been much appreciated!

Again this year, given that the 2022 Annual Meeting was held via Zoom, no reception was held.

The planned New Member event held on April 21st was held via Zoom. Although only two new members attended, it was a worthwhile event. Obviously, the Zoom meeting arrangement had lost its appeal. However, the 2nd and last New Member Event was held October 13th, in person, and was extremely successful! Over thirty members attended, including at least fifteen new members, plus committee and Board members. Sally Gayer welcomed those attending and by the end of the event several new members had voiced interest in volunteering!

I am sure that most Annual Picnic attendees were as eagerly anticipating this event, as were our committee members. With the committee's gratitude, Director Tom Hardiman worked with Seacoast Science Center Director, Jim Chase, to make this event happen on the scheduled day, albeit at a different location. It was held under the tent, at Rye Harbor State Park.

Five days to prepare for a different site proved to be a challenge. However, with White Apron's Bar Service's willingness to change venues and the support of several Athenaeum volunteers, plus the committee, the event was a success!

Thank you all, with special thanks to Tom Hardiman for making it possible!

The introduction of changes in the organizational model added a Standing Committee, linking the Social Committee and the Admissions Committee, so as to improve the initial experience for new members and to increase their interest and involvement in a variety of opportunities presented at the Athenaeum. The Social Committee looks forward to being part of that goal!

The final event of the year was our first "Annual Holiday Party" to be held since 2019! It was a vibrant and delightful success. Unfortunately, we had several members who had signed up to attend and could not. On the other hand, we had a long wait-list of members who were happy to attend.

I would like to thank the following members of the Social Committee for their active involvement in making this year's events successful: Doug Aykroyd, Elizabeth Aykroyd, Jan Dinan, Mark Ankarberg, Curt Springer, Cliff Hodgdon, Joan Hammond, Kathleen Logan, and Tom Hardiman.

We would like to thank the following Wine Stewards, organized by Doug Aykroyd. Without their willingness to volunteer, the Holiday Party libations would have flowed much more slowly! Thank you to Ed Caylor, Karen Bouffard, Jeff Hopper, Sean Clancy, Curtis Springer, Janet Bagley, Deb Child, Don Margeson, Tom Watson, Gary Ghigliotti, Glen Hammond, Kinley Gregg, Andrew Bagley, Jan Dinan, and Doug Aykroyd.

One of the exciting changes coming to the Social Committee is the addition of Kathleen Logan as Co-Chairman. She will work with me as we eagerly plan for this new year.

The whole Social Committee is eagerly looking forward to 2023 and to offering quality social events to our membership.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cynthia (Cindy) Knapp
Chairman, Social Committee

Special Collections Report for 2022

The key public purpose of the Athenaeum is to collect, protect, and make available to the public original materials documenting the history of Portsmouth. We encourage institutional deposits, accept

gifts of family papers, photographs, and ephemera to that end. As such material has often left this area, we follow the market and purchase such materials when we can afford to bring them back home to this area.

As usual, the Special Collections committee is indebted to J. Dennis Robinson, Kinley Gregg, and Tom Hardiman for following websites for such materials, buying, donating, or transcribing or translating such manuscripts.

Antiquarian book and paper dealers, especially Richard Thorner in Manchester, and DeWolfe and Wood of Alfred, ME have kept an eye out for such papers and again helped build our collections.

Members of the Athenaeum family were again generous donors of photographs, papers, and records. With the help of Peter Randall, we were able to acquire from his family negatives and photographs by the late J.D. Lincoln, a NH Art Association photographer who documented the changing city – especially in the 1970s and 1980s.

In addition to ongoing cataloging of the large Armsden photo collection, James Smith is now starting to do the same for the Lincoln collection. He and Tom Hardiman plan a small exhibition of this new collection as part of the city's 400th celebration in the late summer or fall.

In preparation for transfer of several institutional deposit collections our archivist Katy Sternberger has worked out possible costs and agreements for potential collections, as well as undertaken research on a few of our existing manuscripts.

New member Phil Carling is nearly halfway done creating archival enclosures for all of our rare book collections.

Richard M. Candee, Chair

Exhibits Committee

Annual Report 2022

The Randall Gallery received a much-needed facelift in the early spring with the removal of the old carpeting and the installation of a wood laminate floor. The first of three exhibitions opened on June 3, 2022, "Standing Together: Seacoast LGBTQ+ Social and Support Groups," curated by Tom Kaufhold. The exhibition was an outgrowth of the 2019 exhibition at the Athenaeum that Tom also curated entitled "Seacoast LGBT History: 50 Years of Rainbow Reflections." Since the 2019 exhibition, Tom has worked at the Athenaeum on archiving the materials collected, such as posters, photos, banners, buttons and documents that tell the stories of people on the Seacoast. The 2022 exhibition focused on the local groups that formed, starting in the 1970s, to fight for LGBTQ+ rights. Tom gave a gallery talk on June 16 and the exhibition was on view until July 15.

The second exhibition of the year, "George S. Wasson (1855-1932): marine painter, woodworker, author" opened on August 5th and was on view until November 5th. The exhibition was curated by a group of admirers of Wasson, including Lauren Gallant, a member of the exhibits committee, and her husband Dean Gallant. They became interested in Wasson after they bought his former house in Kittery Point. Dave Kaselauskas, the chief curator of the exhibition, had been studying and collecting the works of Wasson for 30 years. Proprietor Wendy Lull was also a part of the curatorial group.

George Wasson studied painting in Stuttgart, Germany, for 3 years, but his success as a marine painter was due to his love of the sea and sailing. His intimate knowledge of boats, rigging, and how boats acted on the water made his paintings popular with sailors. His short stories and three novels featured the maritime characters of Kittery with their distinctive vocabulary. His last book is considered by many to be the authoritative book on the history of sail in Maine. Wasson also studied carving in the studio of John Haley Bellamy, a neighbor, where he learned to carve eagles, ship models and frames and panels for his own paintings. All aspects of his artistic talents were represented in the exhibition - paintings, carvings, books and sketchbooks.

The final exhibition for the year was the Proprietors Art Show, which opened on December 2, 2020 as part of the annual holiday party. It will close on January 5, 2023. This year the show included paintings, photographs, sculpture, fiber works, jewelry and silverware. We were excited to have new contributors this year, as well as our regulars, whose new works we look forward to seeing each year.

We were fortunate this year to have Stephanie Hewson, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator, work on our behalf to find volunteers to sit in the Randall Gallery while the exhibitions were open. We would like to thank her for her efforts.

Judy Groppa

Chair, Exhibits Committee