



## **2021 Annual Meeting**

**Via Zoom  
March 30, 2021**

The meeting was called to order by Amy Devin, President.

Amy acknowledged that it was a difficult year, but that we were able to make the most of it. She thanked all who gave, who came to our events, and otherwise supported us this past year. We were able to present 12 programs over the course of the year, as well 4 major projects. Our programming centered on the question, "Who are Cambridge Women?" (If you missed these events, you can check them out on our YouTube page.)

In addition to our great programming, Amy noted we were able to complete an inspiring Strategic Plan that will guide the organization's work for the next three years and beyond. The Plan clearly outlines our goals including broadening and diversifying our audience and participants, as well as the histories we share, remaking our organization to be more open and inclusive, and ensuring long term financial and organizational sustainability. Our strategic plan provides a blueprint for us to become a leader in the field of public history and a strong and valued voice within the Cambridge community.

Amy shared with the group that the Cambridge Historical Society will soon be operating under the new name "History Cambridge" and unveiled the new logo.

Lauren Harder, Treasurer, updated the group on our finances. We started 2020 with \$100,000 in the bank, yet despite a difficult year, our finances are solid. When the pandemic hit, we were concerned about how this might affect our financials, but we were proactive. We took a number of measures during the pandemic to stay on top of the situation, including meeting often to review data, asking for (and receiving!) increased financial support from our donors, obtaining a PPP loan, acquiring grant funding, developing a virtual fundraiser, and reducing our expenses. Together, all of these measures helped us break even, even in a pandemic year. We finished the year with \$130,000 in the bank.

Doug Brown, Secretary, reiterated how the Governing Council really came together during the pandemic to provide support by meeting weekly or monthly as needed. Now that things have quieted down, we are back to our regular meeting schedule.

Doug's first order of business was outlining changes to the Bylaws. We recently completed a 2-1/2-year process to review the Society's by-laws with the help of MIT Sloan Board Fellows Wenwen Gao and Daniel Rosengard, as well as former Councilor Bill August and volunteer Laura B. Roberts.

The goals of this review were the modernization and democratization of the organization, to better reflect current best practices among non-profits, to better reflect how our organization currently operates, and to better conform to state laws. Doug noted that details of all the changes are listed on the website. As there were no questions, Doug moved to accept the updated Bylaws as written. Marni Clippinger seconded. The motion passed unanimously. [Participants were able to vote verbally or via the chat box.]

The next order of business was the Slate of Officers and Directors. Doug explained there were changes with the board over the past year, including the departure of Christina DeYoung, Gus Alexander, Michael Tushman, Howard Lurie, Tod Beaty, Doug Hanna, and Kyle Sheffield. Doug thanked all for their service.

Doug made a motion to approve the following slate:

Amy Devin, President  
Ed Rodley, Vice President  
Lauren Harder, Treasurer  
Doug Brown, Clerk  
Elizabeth Adams  
Marni Clippinger  
Bruce Irving  
Frank Kramer  
Heli Meltsner  
Katherine Rafferty

Ed Rodley seconded. The motion passed unanimously. [Participants were able to vote verbally or via the chat box.]

Amy closed with thanks to all, including the entire board who give so much of their time and talents; to staff members Marieke Van Damme, Beth Folsom, and Amy Marquis; to our Strategic Planners Rainey Tisdale and Laura Roberts; to all of our volunteers and speakers, and to all our friends.

The meeting adjourned around 12:30 PM.