

MAINE ARCHIVES ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES

Maine State Archives
December 7, 2018
10 am

PRESENT: Chairman: Twila Lycette,
Board members: Howard Lowell, Sam Webber, Nina Osier
State Archivist David Cheever
Records Management Analyst II Felicia Kennedy

ABSENT: Board members: Susan Bulay

Chairman Twila Lycette called the meeting to order at 9:58.

The Board approved the Minutes of the August 24, 2018, meeting.

State Archivist David Cheever reported that a recent meeting with Governor-Elect Janet Mills evidenced a sincere interest in participating in Maine's Bicentennial. She was asked to consider proposing a Supplemental Budget request to provide the Bicentennial Commission with immediate funding, and a Biennial Budget request to address longer term expenses.

Cheever also confirmed that the proposed Title 5 housekeeping legislation that was vetoed by the 128th Legislature will be resubmitted to the 129th. If enacted, it will mean expanding the Archives Advisory Board to address the State's digital archiving challenges.

In a follow-up to business from the Board's August 2018 meeting, Cheever reported that the West Bath Historical Society agreed to the Board's proposed conditions for the Society to serve as an Alternative Repository of Local Government Records.

The Board then approved the deaccession for a variety of recent findings in the Archives, which were described as "Gifts in Error," meaning items accepted by the Archives that do not now, and likely never did, meet the Archives' mission. The Board discussed a proposal that Archives management, upon the finding of a holding that has been accepted in error, could be relied upon to forego the formal deaccessioning process and dispose of the holding in an appropriate manner. The consideration centered on the Board's responsibility to assess government documents for disposition and deaccession.

Many items brought before the Board in the August and December meetings were not government documents. Rather, they were whimsy holdings that

might have held initial appeal for preservation, but for which the Archives is the inappropriate agency to provide that care. The Board chose to include the topic as a business item for the next meeting.

Records Management Analyst II Felicia Kennedy spoke to her ongoing challenge regarding the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and its quandary about determining what documents the agency considers archival, and those that the agency contends retain permanent historic value but are to be held free of archival preservation or the provision of ready public access.

She questioned the Agency's comprehension of responsibilities toward archival material, for preservation and for public access. She presented the Board with a spreadsheet which gave an outline of the Historic Preservation submissions. However, no action was requested, and the Board agreed to re-visit the issue at its next meeting.

The Board scheduled its next meeting for March 7, 2018, at 10 a.m., in the Archives.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45.