

**MISHAWUM CHORAL SOCIETY  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
December 8, 2016**

A meeting of the Mishawum Choral Society Board of Directors was held on Thursday, December 8, 2016, in Brian Gilbertie's office at Woburn Memorial High School.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

In attendance were Bob Clay, Chris Ferguson, Brian Gilbertie, Brian Girouard, Renelle Hebert, Linda Lue Leiserson, MaryEllen Murray, Myrna Tichenor and Loretta Tocio. Peter Hobson and Bob Vieira were absent.

The following agenda items were discussed:

- **Minutes from the November Meeting**

The minutes from the November meeting were reviewed and approved as written. Following approval of the minutes, the Board unanimously voted to elect Loretta Tocio as the Board's new Secretary.

- **Concert Reflection**

Feedback from our concert was discussed. Overall, very positive comments were received from our audience and participants alike. Some thought it was one of the best, if not the best concert we have done in recent memory. It was felt generally that we had a good selection and variety of music. However, one of our regular concert-goers felt that, although it was good, it was "somewhat less entertaining and engaging" than some of the others we have done in the past. But, overall, the reaction and responses from the people who attended and participated in this event were very positive.

While Brian Gilbertie thought the chorus did well during the performance overall, he was concerned about the beginning few measures of *O Magnum Mysterium*. However, once we got through this part of it, he felt we performed the piece well and that the musical blend was good.

Director Brian is also in favor of having us sing *I Wish You Christmas* at all of our Christmas concerts going forward, and *Go With A Song in Your Heart* as our signature song for all spring concerts in the future. He is also considering the possibility of having the chorale perform an entire classical work of music. However, some of the Board members expressed concern that such a work might not appeal to our audiences.

**MISHAWUM CHORAL SOCIETY**  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**December 8, 2016**

Renelle suggested that we purchase additional stools for people who might need them (at least two more). The stools we have now were purchased at Ocean State Job Lot. Chris Ferguson expressed concern about evacuation procedures we would need to follow at the performance venue during an emergency

Everyone is extremely pleased with the concert programs Linda Lue has created and the information she has included in them. The time and effort she puts into designing, crafting and producing these is greatly valued and appreciated.

Linda Lue expressed concern about having enough rehearsal time prior to our concerts to ensure we are performance ready and wanted us to think about the possibility of adding extra rehearsals. Where extra practice time might not be possible for some members, Director Brian asked us to consider perhaps pushing our concert date out to the second Saturday or Sunday in December rather than the first Sunday of that month. However, it appears as though there is a venue conflict during that week. Brian feels the group should decide how to handle this going forward. Renelle and Myrna presented the idea of shortening the time designated as the open rehearsal period and encouraging new people to sign on as members sooner rather than waiting to do so until the end of this period. President Brian and Chris felt it wasn't viewed as a trial period and that the 4 weeks should be maintained as the designated open rehearsal period.

On another topic, Renelle pointed out that most new members participated in the Christmas on the Common event (which everyone was pleased about).

- **Fundraising Updates**

President Brian reported there is \$4,027 in the treasury. This includes a \$500 anonymous donation restricted to the purchase of new music.

Based on Brian's survey, the membership voted the 99 Restaurant (near the Woburn Mall) the place to have our fundraising event. This event is tentatively scheduled to occur within the late January/early February timeframe (but the date can be pushed out if necessary).

- **Board Positions**

We then discussed the positions that need to be filled on the Board. There was some agreement that the Vice President's responsibilities should probably include fundraising and event coordination. It was suggested further that a list should be compiled consisting of candidates who could be approached to fill these positions, or through the creation of a nominating committee, members would be appointed to fill these roles. President Brian

**MISHAWUM CHORAL SOCIETY  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
December 8, 2016**

suggested coming up with a list of people. Everyone on the Board agreed this should be done in early to mid-January.

- **Spring Banquet**

Suggestions for the banquet were discussed. Among the sites being considered are the Woburn Country Club, the Crestview Plaza and the Tewksbury Country Club. Other venues will be looked into as well.

- **Woburn's 375<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

Director Brian indicated that we will all be receiving a commemorative coin as participants in the celebration. He also said that the women running the event will be running an ad for us. We are still waiting to hear as to whether or not the Mayor's office will compensate Sarah.

- **Other Business**

Because the meeting ran later than anticipated, we were unable address other business issues.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 3, 2017

- **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Loretta Tocio

Secretary