BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OF

THE MIDDLESEX CANAL ASSOCIATION

J. Jeremiah Breen, BSCE: Retired Civil Engineer Tufts University, Active cyclist who organizes trips along the 27 mile canal route, frequent docent at our Museum. President of the Middlesex Canal Association since 2011. One of the Building Committee members in our efforts to refurbish a mid-19th century warehouse building to serve as our future museum.

Robert Winters, Ph.D. in Mathematics from Boston University, 1990. Teaches mathematics at MIT Concourse Program and at the Harvard Extension School. Chair of Local Walks/Hikes Committee, Appalachian Mountain Club. Leads walks along the Middlesex Canal twice yearly. Webmaster for the Middlesex Canal Association - middlesexcanal.org -and publisher of Towpath Topics.

Neil P. Devins, Ph.D.: BS Cornell University, Masters Degree in Counseling from Columbia University and Doctorate from the Institute of Advanced Psychological Studies at Adelphi University. He is a practicing licensed Psychologist with a love of History. Active in the docent program of our museum. Membership Secretary of the Middlesex Canal Association. Neil has recently made arrangements to install a Middlesex Canal sign on a kiosk in the Wilmington Town Park.

Traci B. Jansen: Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction of literacy from Lesley College. She was a third grade teacher at the Woburn Street School in Wilmington for 13 years and has recently transferred to the Lexington School System. District Elementary Technology Trainer who provides professional development workshops to teachers in the area of technology integration. Installed QR coding in our Museum. Traci brings hundreds of students to our Museum every year. Active docent at our Museum. Vice-president of the Middlesex Canal Association.

Russell B. Silva: B.S. in Business Administration from Northeastern University. Retired from the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. Frequent docent at our museum. Active in our elementary education program. He became Treasurer of the Middlesex Canal Association in 2017.

Betty M. Bigwood, MD: B.S. Wells College, MD Medical College of Virginia, Internship at Pennsylvania Hospital, Residency at the Mayo Clinic in Internal Medicine/Neurology. Retired. Past Trustee of Unity, a group of young adults who had cancer. Lead Director of the One Canal Street Project. One of the founders of the Museum’s elementary teaching program. Treasurer of the Middlesex Canal Commission. Lead Director of the Building Committee for the New Middlesex Canal Museum and Visitor Center.

Roger K. Hagopian: B.A. in Music from University of Massachusetts specializing in trumpet and piano. He has professionally performed pop and jazz music and taught piano as a music therapist. Has won awards for his Documentary Films on local history such as canals and Armenian History. His CDs on the Middlesex Canal are sold at our Museum. His CD on David Dettinger’s “The Canal that Bisected Boston” is the definitive story of the southern extension of the Middlesex Canal. He leads walks along the Middlesex Canal and is frequently called upon for filming and expert canal information.

Alan D. Lefebvre: BA UMass-Lowell. Currently employed by the Town of Tewksbury as an Aide in Lifeskills at the high school. Frequent docent at our museum. Volunteers at the VA Hospital in Bedford, MA.

Thomas H. Dahill,Jr: B.S. in Chemistry from Tufts College. He served in World War II as an aerial navigator. Studied painting at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts Boston, graduating with honors and taught there for over 10 years. Professor and Chairman of the Department of Fine Arts at Emerson College for 32 years. He studied at the Skowhegan School in Maine, the Max Beckman Gaselschaft in Germany, Harvard College Summer School and held a fellowship for two years in the American Academy in Rome. He has supervised exhibitions at the Narthex Gallery of the First Church in Boston for many years and was recently given a silver Paul Revere Bowl in an appreciation ceremony. His museum design, watercolors and drawings provided the nidus for the Middlesex Canal Museum which has expanded to include his large murals. He co-authored “The Incredible Ditch” and “Tales Along the Middlesex Canal “ which are sold in our Museum shop. His painting “The Canal that Bisected Boston” is acclaimed by all. A founder of the Museum’s elementary school teaching program, He is adored by children who attend our classes as they watch him draw.

William E. Gerber: Degree in Electrical Engineering from Pennsylvania University, and Masters in both Business (Florida State University) and Education (Lesley College). Colonel Gerber is a graduate of the Armed Forces Staff College. Much of his adult life was spent in Intelligence, Systems Development and Acquisition work for the USAF. He now researches the early transportation era. His attention to detail and inquisitiveness has been instrumental in outlining the northern extension of the Middlesex Canal into New Hampshire and the earliest development of the towboat. He is a past president of the Middlesex Canal Association and editor of Towpath Topics.

Howard B. Winkler, Treasurer Emeritus: Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering from New York University, Masters of Mechanical Engineering from Yale University. Retired. He is a member and past president of the Arlington Historical Society, a member of the Battle Road Scenic Byway Committee of the Massachusetts Area Planning Council and a member of the Arlington Tourism and Economic Committee. He was Treasurer of the Middlesex Canal Association for almost thirty years.

Debra Diffin Fox: Bachelor of Arts (Political Science) Emmanuel College, Masters NYU in History, MSHP Ball State University in Historic Preservation to be completed, appointed member to Billerica Historic Districts Commission for almost 23 years, Preservation Consultant in Indiana and Massachusetts since 1980, involved with putting three buildings on the National Register in Massachusetts, Service Unit Coordinator for Girl Scouts in Billerica.

Alec Ingraham: Alec graduated from the University of Massachusetts in Boston in 1970 with a BA in History and five years later with a BA in Mathematics. For over 35 years he taught mathematics at Southern New Hampshire University where he attained the rank of full professor, served as mathematics department chair for nearly 30 years before retiring in 2014. He is past president, past treasurer and member of the Billerica Historical Society: President and treasurer and member of the Middlesex Canal Commission Billerica section: chair and member of the Billerica Historical Commission and Billerica Town Historian. When a lad, Alec skated on a watered section of the canal near his home. This prompted him, when a freshman in college to write a term paper on the Middlesex Canal. This essay was published in an early edition of the MCA newsletter, Towpath Topics, of which he is currently co-editor. Alec also worked in association with other MCA members during the construction phase of the current MCA Museum and Visitor Center, dedicating and rededicating the MCC’s wayside marker on High Street in Billerica and placing markers outlining the canal’s history of significant points within Billerica.