

THE READINGTON MUSEUMS  
MUSEUM COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
March 3, 2022

Chairman Rene Rao called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. She announced that all laws governing the Open Public Meetings Act had been met and that the meeting had been duly advertised.

**PRESENT:** Committee Members Rene Rao, Sheila Paciullo, Joyce Lykes, Sarah John, Nancy O'Malley, Mario Orlandi, Helen Farrant, and Museum Director Margaret Smith were in attendance. Township Liaison Betty Ann Fort was absent. A quorum of Committee members was present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes from February 3rd were reviewed. Joyce Lykes motioned for approval, and Mario seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**BUSINESS –**

**PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** The committee reviewed and discussed the report.

**BUDGET:**

CHPP: We have received the contract and grant agreement. The budget forms and narrative were submitted to Rich for agreement, approval and signature, which was then uploaded to a PDF and submitted to the County.

Pat Fisher Olsen shared another grant possibility through the National Parks Service to consider and to collaborate with Hist. Pres.

**PROPERTIES:**

*Bouman Stickney Farmstead:*

- Screened Porch and Roof: Chris Pickell said plans should be ready in the next week or two. Once available, we can send the request to the SHPO for approval on the porch reconstruction, share with contractors for estimates, and follow up with Rich for funding and bid follow up.
- Margaret met with Ron Christy, road supervisor, to discuss the logistics of adding land to raise up the ramp to the porch. The committee agreed that we would prefer the raised land form of ramp, and hopefully use the raise to move water away from the house at the same time. If buildings and grounds has the resources to design that change in the land, then perhaps they can provide guidance for Eversole Hall as well, and if not then Mario has a few names of professionals we could seek advice from.
- The committee discussed the addition of a 5 foot apron at the top of the driveway as an option to help keep the water from running straight down the drive and instead send it down to the right as you go toward the house. We will discuss this further with more information once Mario gets a chance to speak with Ron Christy.
- The committee discussed some potentially problematic trees. There is a questionable oak by the guest house which the committee decided to keep an eye on for now, and there is also a large dead ash tree on the driveway that we will ask if buildings and grounds can help with.

- Ron Christy also mentioned some structural deficiencies in the posts at the bridge that he plans to address.

*Eversole-Hall:*

- Pat Fisher Olsen and Chris Pickell were consulted for advice on historic engineers. Pat suggested we ask Chris who said an experienced preservation architect would be better to consult with than an engineer. A 'Preservation Architect NJ' search yielded a few on the list to look over.

*Cold Brook School:*

- Nothing at this time

**PROGRAMS/EVENTS:** past

- None since the last meeting

**PROGRAMS/EVENTS:** upcoming

**Upcoming Programming:**

**Lectures: planned for the last Friday of each month**

June - David Reading -Local cemeteries and Readington descendants

July - Dana Bala – Cookbook over the centuries

August - Gregory Herman - Indian burial grounds on top of Cushetunk Mountain

**Hunterdon 300<sup>th</sup> collaboration: Website: [Hunterdon300th](#)**

- Waiting for additional feedback on this collaboration for the Stephanie Stevens lectures

**Open Houses:**

May 1: Lucy Walsh and Sharon Ballard will provide a presentation of local historic rug hookers (fiber artists)

October 2nd- Enslowes -All Hallows' Eve

October 16th- Enslowes- All Hallows' Eve (in collaboration with Hunterdon 300)

**School Programs**

The search for a soldier continues. Margaret has reached out to 12 different sources for a soldier to interpret at the 5<sup>th</sup> grade program. Each contact is also spreading the word through email and social media blasts. Those who have responded, said that a weekday program limits availability. If a soldier cannot be attained, the plan is to move to plan B: a tin-smith station.

Most up to date rescheduled dates:

- WHS 3<sup>rd</sup> at EHH/Town Hall: April 26 and 27, with May 13 and 23 as rain-days
- HBS 5<sup>th</sup> at BSF: May 16 – 20 (the 20<sup>th</sup> is a rain-day)
- TBS 3<sup>rd</sup> at EHH: May 25th and June 1 with June 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> as rain-days.

**OTHER:**

**Art Series:** updates coming next month

**Assistant:** Margaret has asked Rich about looking into whether or not there is still space in the budget for an assistant to start shadowing Margaret.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Sarah moved that the meeting be adjourned. Joyce seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah John  
Secretary