

THE READINGTON MUSEUMS
MUSEUM COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
March 2, 2023

Vice-Chairman Sheila Paciullo called the meeting to order at 7:35 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 Sheila Paciullo, Joyce Lykes, Nancy O'Malley, Rene Rao, Helen Farrant, and Museum Director Margaret Smith were in attendance. Sarah John arrived late. Mario Orlandi and Township Committee Liaison Vincent Panico were absent. A quorum of Committee members was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes from February 2nd, 2023 were reviewed. Due to absences and connection difficulties, the committee tabled the approval of those minutes until next month.

BUSINESS –

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

BUDGET:

- **Budget meeting-** The Township Committee invited all departments to the 2023 budget meeting to review capital and/or operating budgets. Sheila and Margaret attended, and presented the museums' mission and goals, discussed grants, reviewed grant allowances, and requested funding for the Cold Brook School roof, as it does not qualify for available grants.

PROPERTIES:

Bouman Stickney Farmstead:

- **House Roof**
 - The project is still scheduled to begin in early March – Rich said regardless of actual start, we would work around museum programs. The roofing company should be providing sheets/tarps in order to help protect items below.
 - The Hunterdon Central Regional High School Interact Club is planning a cleaning day with the interact club on Saturday, March 18.
- **Porch**
 - The Township Committee approved the 2023 Hunterdon County Historic Preservation Grant Application for BSF porch reconstruction, and Margaret submitted it to the county on 2/10/2023.
- **Alternate Exit**
 - The committee revisited, briefly, the discussion of adding the alternate driveway/emergency exit. The discussion was tabled until next month.

Eversole-Hall:

- Scott Electric checked on a breaker switch that has been continually tripping-We are monitoring and continuing experimentation with outlets and the electric candles.
- New gate and fence repair- Wade installed a double gate for the mower to access near the back door and added new fencing up to the original fence gate. Wade can repair more of the

fence, depending on the budget: We need 25 sections at \$58/section. Total estimated cost is \$1450. If the project avoids May and June, it won't be a conflict for the third grade program. Helen made a motion to spend up to \$2000.00 for the fence repair project, including some wood around the garden sections. Rene seconded. The motion passed unambiguously.

Cold Brook School:

- Nothing at this time

PROGRAMS/EVENTS: past

- Nothing at this time

PROGRAMS/EVENTS:

Upcoming Programming and Events:

- **Tour – April 29, 2 PM** -Upper Township Historical Society (Cape May County) - NJ Dutch heritage bus tour of about 40 peeps. \$5.00 donation, per person. If we have four docents, we can divide the group up and give small, organized tours.
- **Live Music-** April 15- 1-4pm Music in the barn- Popular Songs and Bluegrass (volunteers needed)

Partners in History- School Programs

- We have a soldier for the 5th-grade program! Roger William's presentation will be similar to the presentations of the past.
- Margaret met with Betty Ann Fort to review and update 3rd-grade EHH/Municipal Building program guide.
- There is a meeting planned for March 29 with the third-grade teacher, Betty Ann Fort, and interested staff to review the updates in curriculum, program guidelines, and logistics for their visit.
- There is additional discussion of the 3rd grade program and concerns with the status of the flooring in the Hall House
- Dates for review:
 - o **March 22, 28, 29, 30, 31 WHS first grades at BSF**
 - o **April 20, 21,24,25, Rain 26, 28 HBS fifth grade at BSF**
 - o **May 15, 16, Rain 17,19 TBS third grade at EHH/Town Hall**
 - o **June 5, 7, Rain 12, 13 WHS third grade at EHH/Town Hall**

OTHER:

Portable Hearing Loops: The Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission now has portable hearing loops available for loans to the arts and history nonprofit organizations! This will be a nice step towards ADA compliance. Margaret will attend a training session on March 7th.

Use of Barn: The Stanton Men's Breakfast club would like to use the barn for their May 6th meeting. The group always does a wonderful job of cleaning up the barn before and after their event. Sheila made a motion to honor the request, once again, for the use of the barn for their event, with the fee being waived. Nancy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT: Sarah moved that the meeting be adjourned. Nancy seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah John
Secretary