

THE READINGTON MUSEUMS
MUSEUM COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
April 6, 2023

Chairman Rene Rao called the meeting to order at 7:42 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, Helen Farrant, Sarah John, Mario Orlandi, Museum Director Margaret Smith, and Township Committee Liaison Vincent Panico were in attendance. Nancy O'Malley was absent. A quorum of Committee members was present. Guest speaker Hyo Park joined late in the meeting to discuss the possibility of filming on the property (see below)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes from February 2nd, 2023 were reviewed. Helen made a motion to approve, and Joyce seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The minutes from March 2, 2023 were reviewed. Joyce made a motion to approve, and Sheila seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

BUSINESS –

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

BUDGET:

- **Assistant Position-** Margaret received an application for the museum assistant position. For now, Rich is holding off on reapproving the position as the township budget needs to be resolved prior to any new or replacement employees. He advised that they will know more about the budget by next month.

PROPERTIES:

Bouman Stickney Farmstead:

- **House Roof**
 - The project is set to begin in early March – Rich said regardless of actual start, it would work around museum programs.
- **House**
 - The Hunterdon Central Regional High School Interact Club cleaned house and barn on Saturday, March 18. All nine volunteers did a fine job.
- **Trees**
 - The estimate from Spanner for treatments came in at about \$1,300. This would include orchard spraying. The committee discussed pruning in addition to other tree care. Margaret will reach back out to Spanner to discuss pricing for just the pruning service.

Eversole-Hall:

- Scott Electric is continuing to watch the breaker that has been continually tripping, and nothing has tripped in the past four weeks.
- Fence restoration has begun.
- Mulch was delivered for the garden. Rene is looking forward to taming the weeds.

Cold Brook School:

- Nothing at this time

PROGRAMS/EVENTS: past

- First grade programs: “Meet Frau Bouman”
 - The program went wonderfully! Children were well behaved, and parent chaperones were very helpful.

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 participants. The Museums is collecting a \$5.00 donation, per person. With four docents, we can divide the group up and give small, organized tours. Two non-committee volunteers have already committed.
- **Live Music-April 15, 1pm** History of Song and BlueGrass. 50 people have registered, and a waiting list has been established.
- **Meet Ned Hector- May 7, 1-2pm.** The event already has a nice sign up!
- **Barn Dance May 13, 7-9pm.** Betsy Gotta is reserved for the return of our annual event

Partners in History- School Programs:

- The third-grade teacher representatives from WHS and TBS, and Betty Ann Fort, met with Margaret, Rene, and Sheila to review the updates in curriculum, program guidelines, and logistics for their visit. The group developed plans for extending the schedule by 15 minutes, planned to update the schedule for stations, and reviewed rain plans if needed.
- Dates:
 - **April 20, 21,24,25, Rain 26, 28** HBS fifth grade at BSF
 - **May 15, 16, Rain 17,19** TBS third grade at EHH/Town Hall
 - **June 5, 7, Rain 12, 13** WHS third grade at EHH/Town Hall

Christmas:

- The committee discussed reinstating the Christmas program this year, and reserving the Enslows for that date. Sheila made a motion to reinstate the program and hire the Enslows, and Joyce seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Additional Enslow Programs:

- The Enslows have other programs available that we could consider for a September event. Margaret will email the committee with the programming options so that we can vote on a program next month.

Rain Barrel Program: The Waterwatch committee along with Raritan Headwaters will be hosting a Rain Barrel Workshop on June 24th in the BSF Barn.

OTHER:

Portable Hearing Loops: Margaret attended a training session on March 7th with the Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission for portable hearing loops available for loan to the arts and history nonprofit organizations. These loops could be a great asset for ADA compliance. After training, Margaret feels this may be helpful for lecture-type programs. There are several approvals, insurance docs, and paperwork to complete prior to borrowing the equipment.

Use of Barn:

Margaret met with Damon Gordon, the scout for the movie who took pictures of the barn (as well as a trip to the Reno barn). He also looked at other barns in the area. Damon reported back to his location manager and designer who were both interested in coming for a future visit.

Suggestions: The committee discussed various safeguards to put in place during the negotiations process, such as ensuring that the blocks of time for the work they are going to do is completely outside of anything we have planned, and adding signage to let people know that the property will be off limits for a short period of time.

Hyo Park, a representative for the production, joined the meeting. He outlined the requirements and requests of the filming group, should the Bouman Stickney property be selected. The major request would be to let the grasses grow out without mowing in preparation for the filming. Plan is to not use any internal elements of the barn.

The committee voted on whether or not we are interested in having the group consider the Bouman Stickney property. The vote passed unanimously. Margaret will get back in touch with Hyo and let him know we are willing to move forward, and send along the standard rules for barn use.

In Person Meetings: Meetings starting next month will resume in-person. We will be meeting at the municipal building.

Press Releases: We will still be able to send our press releases to Readington News.

ADJOURNMENT: Sarah moved that the meeting be adjourned. Joyce seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah John
Secretary