

THE READINGTON MUSEUMS  
MUSEUM COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
May 4, 2023

Chairman Rene Rao called the meeting to order at 7:34 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, Sarah John, Nancy O'Malley, Mario Orlandi, and Museum Director Margaret Smith, were in attendance. Joyce Lykes, Helen Farrant, and Township Committee Liaison Vincent Panico were absent. A quorum of Committee members was present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes from April 6th, 2023 were reviewed. Sheila made a motion to approve as amended, and Nancy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**BUSINESS –**

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

**BUDGET:**

**PROPERTIES:**

*Bouman Stickney Farmstead:*

- **House Roof**
  - The project is now scheduled to begin the week of June 5 or after.
  - The materials were approved by C. Pickell
- **Driveway/Parking**
  - A temporary blockade has been installed at the driveway near the bridge and house to prevent cars from blocking the bridge and keeping access to the house during programs. The committee discussed adding permanent signage for museum staff parking. It was agreed that the signage should be kept low enough as to not obscure the views of the house. The committee will look for different sign ideas to bring to the next meeting
- **Egress for Emergency Exit**
  - Mario helped refresh the committee's memory as to where we were when we last reviewed this egress option, pre-Covid. We reviewed the previously discussed plans, and determined that we should probably bring the ideas to the attention of the Township to see how to go forward.

*Eversole-Hall:*

- Fence restoration has continued. Wade is going to add a layer of wire fencing to the inside of the new fence, including digging it down to help prevent digging critters.
- The troublesome breaker has still not tripped for 8 weeks.

*Cold Brook School:*

- Nothing at this time

### **PROGRAMS/EVENTS:** past

*Dorothy Stickney Art Series Program*

- **History of Song and BlueGrass - April 15** - about 70 people in attendance to enjoy the music, despite the rain. The museums collected over \$300 in donations.
- **Partners in History- School Program:**
  - HBS Fifth Grade programs went great!
- **Tour – April 29, 2 PM -Canceled** due to power lines and trees down in front of the driveway. Upper Township Historical Society (Cape May County)

### **PROGRAMS/EVENTS:**

#### **Upcoming Programming and Events:**

- **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. Refreshments and volunteers are needed for the event.

#### **Partners in History- School Programs:**

- Dates:
  - **May 15, 16, Rain 17,19** TBS third grade at EHH/Town Hall (9-11:45)
  - **June 5, 7, Rain 12, 13** WHS third grade at EHH/Town Hall (9-11:45)
- Volunteers needed to clean EHH and to help with those programs. Volunteers would need to plan for 8-12:30

#### **Additional Enslow Programs:**

- The Enslows are already booked for September, so we will revisit them for the spring.

**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:**

#### **Donations:**

- A set of old keys from french doors presumed to be from a mid-19th century farm at 3502 US Hwy 22, which is now the border of County Line Road.
- A set of pictures of 1940's from Whitehouse resident and of teachers/students from Whitehouse School

**Hunting on the Bouman Stickney Property:** The property came up as an addition to the hunting plan. The committee discussed options to find a compromise to maintain the safety zone around the Bouman-Stickney parcel, and provide a buffer zone for the regular users of the open space.

**Facebook:** The Museums committee has been ordered to shut down the independent Facebook page. The committee discussed reasons why the Museums has circumstances that require the maintenance of an independent page. Margaret and some committee members will be meeting with Township Liaison Vincent Panico tomorrow about this issue.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Sarah moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mario seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah John  
Secretary