

THE READINGTON MUSEUMS
MUSEUMS COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
October 5, 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, Sarah John, Nancy O'Malley, Joyce Lykes, Mario Orlandi, Sheila Paciullo, and Museum Director Margaret Smith were in attendance. Committee member 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 September 7th, 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:

Grants:

- **CHPP 2024 Application** - The township approved the application for online submission to be submitted to the county.
- **Historic Preservation Grant, HC Open Space Trust Fund**
 - The grant is submitted and is in the review process.
 - Margaret was contacted by the county with questions and she clarified topics for the grant reviewers.

PROPERTIES:

Bouman Stickney Farmstead:

- **Emergency Exit:** No information
- **Accessibility Ramp:** Pat Fisher Olsen of the Historic Preservation Commission has suggested an improved wooden ramp. This is a task that possibly Buildings and Grounds could complete for us. Margaret will find out if we need a handrail for that size/length of ramp, and then will determine if we need any additional permissions to install a handrail. The committee will discuss again at the next meeting.
- **Porch:** The grant seeking process continues
- **Guest House:**
 - Asbestos technicians retrieved samples from the kitchen, and the results will be sent to public works.
 - The results of the oil tank removal status research from 2006 and 2007:
 - The township has permits on file for the removal of tanks in both years.
 - Van Doren Oil Co. has a record of installation of tanks in buildings.
 - Margaret was able to locate the invoice and receipt for removal of inground tank.

Eversole-Hall:

- Nothing at this time

Cold Brook School:

- Margaret has asked for township funding to be put aside for a new roof, since the building itself isn't officially historic, and therefore is not eligible for the same kinds of grants we can apply for at the other properties.

PROGRAMS/EVENTS: past

- **September 9:** Eddie J and Danny A presented "Bluegrass and History of Song." 35 attended, and \$100 was collected in donations.
- **September 12:** The homeschool group learned about tin-smithing and colonial living. 16 participated from all around the state. \$160 in donations collected.

PROGRAMS/EVENTS:

Upcoming Programming and Events:

- **October 8 Open House from 12:00-2:00pm:** House tours including Bouman genealogy and artifacts.
- **October 14: Barn Dance**

Date options selected for 2024 Barn Dances:

- o May 18
- o Oct 12

OTHER:

Long Range Plan:

Step one: Mission Statement The committee has homework of crafting a revised mission statement. The prior mission statement was:

The mission of the Readington Museums is to promote an understanding of the history and culture of Readington Township, the County, and the State through education, preservation, collections, and interpretation. We strive to meet our mission through a variety of programming and community activities including Partners in History school programs, summer children's activities, Open House Sundays, Friday Night Lectures, hands-on history classes, community functions, and exhibits.

ADJOURNMENT: Nancy moved that the meeting be adjourned. Joyce seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah John
Secretary