

THE READINGTON MUSEUMS
MUSEUMS COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
November 2, 2023

Chairman Rene Rao called the meeting to order at 7:37 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, Helen Farrant, Mario Orlandi, Sheila Paciullo, and Museum Director Margaret Smith were in attendance. Township Committee Liaison Vincent Panico was absent. A quorum of Committee members was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes from October 5th, 2023 were reviewed. Nancy made a motion to approve as amended, and Joyce seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

BUSINESS –

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

BUDGET:

Grants:

- **CHPP 2023 Application**
 - Margaret is preparing the final report to submit in mid-December
- **Historic Preservation Grant, HC Open Space Trust Fund**
 - No updates at this time
- **2024 Budget Preparation**
 - Administrator Rich Sheola is requesting the 2024 Budget Proposal for the Museums
 - The committee reviewed the proposed budget for submission

PROPERTIES:

Bouman Stickney Farmstead:

- **Emergency Exit:** No information
- **Accessibility Ramp:** Margaret consulted with Tom Petto, a township construction official, who is working with public works to develop a plan. Some suggestions are:
 - A simple plan -build up the land around the porch or add 1-2 Stone steps.
 - A more complicated plan -make the ramp longer, This option will require footings and curbing. Rails are not needed.
 - The committee waits to hear more information
- **Guest House:** the asbestos test came back negative

Eversole-Hall:

- Nothing at this time

Cold Brook School:

- As the building itself isn't officially historic the committee discussed Synthetic Shingle Roofing as an option for that structure. The committee also discussed long-term expenses down the road and how to better keep the property maintained.

Taylor's Mill:

- The Friends of Colonel John Taylor's Grist Mill is organizing an opening event for the restoration of the mill on November 19th at 10:30am. Preservation New Jersey will be helping to organize and host the event.

PROGRAMS/EVENTS: past

- **October 8: Open House** House tours including Bouman genealogy and artifacts, 10 visitors, 2 board, 1 volunteer
- **October 14: Barn Dance** 26 visitors, 3 board, 5 volunteer
- **October 30: Girl Scouts visit** The girls participated in hands-on colonial living: made toys, carded wool, etc, and learned how to make ink and use a quill pen.

PROGRAMS/EVENTS:

Upcoming Programming and Events:

- **November 5: Open House 1-4** House tours including Bouman genealogy and artifacts
- **December 3: Christmas Program** Need cookie bakers and decorations up Friday, December 1
 - Margaret will send out the cookie list for volunteers

School/Camp Programs 2024

- Upcoming (in order of calendar):
 - 1st Grade WHS if approved by BOE: March 18 PM, 19PM, 20 AM and PM, 22 PM (exact times to be determined after approval)
 - 5th Grade HBS April 15,16,17,18, and Rain days 19 and 22. 9:00-11:30 AM.
 - 3rd Grade WHS April 23, 24, and rain days 26 and 29. 9:00 – 11:45 AM
 - 3rd Grade TBS June 5, 10, and rain days 11 and 12. 9:00 – 11:45 AM
 - 1st Grade TBS will contact Margaret to schedule if/when the trip is approved by BOE.

OTHER:

Exhibit Case

- The Museums will be working with the DAR for a Constitution display, and developing a community outreach relationship.

Long Range Plan:

Step one: 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.

Suggested revisions are:

Dedicated to preserving the future of Readington's past through historical immersion and education

To celebrate the history and culture of Readington, Hunterdon, and beyond by keeping knowledge of the past alive

Building a future with America's past

Remembering the past as we carry on our future endeavors

Possible Vision Statement:

The vision 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 school programs, summer children's activities, open houses, live and virtual lectures, hands-on history classes, community functions, and exhibits.

ADJOURNMENT: Sheila moved that the meeting be adjourned. Nancy seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah John
Secretary