

THE READINGTON MUSEUMS
MUSEUM COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
February 4, 2021

Chairman Sheila Paciullo called the meeting to order at 7:36 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, Helen Farrant, Mario Orlandi, Sarah John, Rene Rao, Museum Director, Margaret Smith, and Township Liaison, Betty Ann Fort were in attendance. A member of the public, Marlene Orlandi, was also present. A quorum of Committee members was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: To be reviewed and approved next month.

BUSINESS –

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

PROPERTIES:

Bouman Stickney Farmstead:

- Discussed overview of inspection report, which just came back the same day as this meeting. Of particular concern are the screen porch and the main roof. The committee agreed to read through the report thoroughly to help in decisions of which items to tackle and in what order. Margaret and Nancy will look into our funding sources and any limitations on each in addition to the current grant proposals (see "other").
- Reviewed history of repairs to the guest house on the property, and revisited idea of finishing those repairs to make an office space upstairs, thereby freeing up the entirety of the main house for Museums space.
 - Rene offered to look for a contractor to walk through the guest house and get estimates and opinions on the work remaining there. Mario offered to supply a short list of contractors that they regularly refer to real estate clients.
- Reviewed remaining funding options and the need for additional grants to cover the litany of issues uncovered during the inspection.

Eversole-Hall:

- Nothing to report

Cold Brook School:

- Nothing to report

PROGRAMS/EVENTS: past

Remember when we used to have programs? Those were nice...

PROGRAMS/EVENTS: upcoming

Sunday, April 4th—Butter and Cheese Making

- Discussed pros and cons of attempting this kind of presentation at this time. Many concerns expressed. Nancy realized that April 4th 2021 is Easter this year, and that ended the debate. Postponed to a later time.

Possible Upcoming Events—On hold for the present

Sunday, May 2rd- Traditional Rug Hooking

- Presentation could be held outside and in the open barn with reserved time slots for visitors.

Sunday, June 6th- Native American Demonstration

- Presentation could be held outside and/or in the open barn with reservations

School Programs

- Discussed the option of using existing videos to continue working with local schools.
- Margaret is looking into the “Country School Association of America” as a possible opportunity for the Cold Brook School.

OTHER:

CHPP Grant-

- No news at this time

Hunterdon Land Trust Grant -

- Margaret and Mario are crafting our application to request funds to replace the cedar roof on the main house.

Other Grant possibilities-

- NJ Historic Trust is another option for grants for the additional repairs listed in our inspection.

Bees!

- A teacher at Readington Middle School reached out about a student wishing to install a Mason bee hive (nest?) on the property. The committee would love for her to come present to us in person.

Bowmans/Boumans in the graveyard-

- Betty Ann Fort reported that a volunteer group who cleans and maintains old cemeteries is looking to work on a site off Woodschurch Road that contains some Boumans, possibly with the Bowman spelling. She will get more information for us in case any committee members wish to become involved.

ADJOURNMENT: Rene moved that the meeting be adjourned. Sarah seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah John
Secretary

Minutes 2021 02 04