

THE READINGTON MUSEUMS  
MUSEUM COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
March 4, 2021

Chairman Sheila Paciullo 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 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, Tatiana Hinka, was also present. A quorum of Committee members was present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes from January 7<sup>th</sup> were reviewed. Sheila Paciullo motioned for approval, as amended, and Mario Orlandi seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The minutes from February 4<sup>th</sup> were reviewed. Rene Rao made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, and Joyce Lykes seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**BUSINESS –**

**PRESENTATION:**

Local student Tatiana Hlinka presented a proposal for adding Mason Bee hives to Museums properties. The presentation was well-planned and thorough.

After, the committee asked questions such as:

- How frequently do the nests need to be serviced? (once a year)
- How far apart should the hives be? (a mile, at least)
- Is there any concern for wasps? (these single-purpose hives aren't appealing to wasps).

Mario suggested that Tatiana continue to seek further opportunities to educate Readington residents about the differences between Mason bees and Carpenter bees. Tatiana is planning to write articles and have fliers for distribution.

The committee thanked Tatiana for her presentation.

Rene offered to meet with Tatiana to walk the Bouman Stickney property to look for good spots to put hives, such as possibly the garden fence, the well, or the bluebird box poles.

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

**BUDGET:**

Margaret and Nancy reviewed the records to determine our available funding sources for projects going forward. It appears there are funds available, some with the specific tag for "capital expenses or improvements" and some for "operating expenses." The committee discussed different approaches for our

upcoming maintenance expenditures, and the need to seek additional grants for as many of the upcoming necessary major projects as possible.

## **PROPERTIES:**

### *Bouman Stickney Farmstead:*

- Revisited the inspectors report and discussed prioritizing the various projects listed.
- Questions remain as to how soon repairs for the porch are required. Mario suggested adding jack posts to help support the porch in order to keep it stabilized until after the roof repairs are completed.
- The committee discussed having contractors, or perhaps an architectural engineer, out to the property to assess the porch and the guest house at the same time, and hopefully provide some idea of the scope and price of those repairs.
- Standard Pest Control came for their regular maintenance appointment. They assured Margaret that the wasps won't come back to previous nests, and that they would remove any newly developed nests if needed prior to roof installation. We would need to have a carpenter cut a hole in the wall as an access point to remove the nest.

### *Eversole-Hall:*

- Good news! The house currently has a resident. It appears an opossum has taken up residence under the stairs. Let's name him Harry.
  - Margaret will reach out to Buildings and Grounds to see if perhaps they can convince Harry not to live in his cupboard under the stairs, and also repair the hole in the floor that might be his access point.
- There is concern about peeling paint and cracks forming in various sections in the walls. Museums members will visit the house to give it an additional look.

### *Cold Brook School:*

- Margaret created a new virtual tour of the Cold Brook School!

## **PROGRAMS/EVENTS:** past

*Nope*

## **PROGRAMS/EVENTS:** upcoming

### *~~Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>—Traditional Rug Hooking~~*

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

### *~~Possible Upcoming Events—On hold for the present~~*

### *Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup> - Native American Demonstration*

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

## **OTHER:**

### *CHPP Grant-*

- No news at this time

*Hunterdon Land Trust Grant -*

- The application is well underway. Margaret and Mario will be taking the application to the Township Committee to apply for authorization to apply for the grant.

*Boy Scouts*

- Margaret has received requests for projects. Email her if you have any ideas.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Sheila moved that the meeting be adjourned. Nancy seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah John  
Secretary