

THE READINGTON MUSEUMS
MUSEUM COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
May 6, 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, Mario Orlandi, Sarah John, Rene Rao, Museum Director, Margaret Smith and Township Liaison Betty Ann Fort were in attendance. Helen Farrant was absent. A quorum of Committee members was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes from April 1st were reviewed. Mario Orlandi motioned for approval, as amended, and Rene seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

BUSINESS –

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

BUDGET:

The CHPP grant administrators would like us to find efficient ways to spend the grant money. Hiring a historic preservationist to analyze the properties would be an efficient and worthy use of the rest of our grant money.

PROPERTIES:

Bouman Stickney Farmstead:

- Margaret has found an additional roofing company to possibly evaluate and provide an additional estimate for the BS house. This company comes recommended from the 1740 Miller-Cory museum.
- Mario reminded the committee that our inspector had advised that there might be a shortage of certain kinds of material so we need to look ahead and plan accordingly
- The asbestos report for the office ceiling came back negative!!!!
- Margaret has begun to clear out the office and storage areas in anticipation of the dust that will be produced from the roofing work. She is able to repurpose several boxes from upstairs at the EHH
- The beehives for the mason bees have been installed by our Girl Scout Tatiana. We're looking forward to the fruits of our busy pollinators.
- The stones for the back pathway need additional crushed stone surrounding them to make the pathway less susceptible to ankle sprain attacks. Sheila will look to see if she has any crushed stones at home that could be added around the stepping stones.

- Porch: Historic Preservation was looking into getting some volunteers, but that may have hit a dead end. Mario will be bringing in two contractors to give us estimates if His Pres is unavailable to help with that project.

Eversole-Hall:

- Margaret purchased the dehumidifier and it is now draining out into a garden with a small tube. Tony from Buildings and Grounds helped with the installation and routing of the water in a temporary way so that if we need to do any remediation it will be removable and movable.
- Sheila added downspout extenders to the gutters pulling that water away from the foundation.
- Michael Cuba has taken an initial overview of the property and has submitted an invoice for \$2500.00 for completion of the same thorough inspection of the property that he provided for BSF. There is some confusion as to whether this amount will cover all of the work and the write up, or if it will incur additional costs for the write up. Margaret will clarify with Mr. Cuba.

Cold Brook School:

- Michael Cuba's initial overview of this property indicates that it will require significantly less work for his inspection, and he has submitted an invoice for the amount of \$1000.00 for that assessment.

Sheila made a Motion to approve of \$3500 to Michael Cuba historic preservation consultant. Nancy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

PROGRAMS/EVENTS: past

Still Nope

PROGRAMS/EVENTS: upcoming

Possible Upcoming Events—On hold for the present

Looking into ideas of presenters for Fall/Winter

Mario is suggesting that we describe what we would like to host in the Fall/Winter and submit them to Township Committee.

Betty Ann suggested having a presenter do three separate one-hour sessions to stagger the visitations.

For the present, we will wait to reserve any presenters for the summer. Margaret will look into presenters for September and beyond. The artists series could begin to run concurrently with the presenters, possibly with one of each per month.

Margaret will reach out to Susan Plaisted for September with the Native American presentation and look into other options for October and possibly November.

OTHER:

Benches!

- The bench donated from Sharon Rider honoring the service of Lucy Rider, therapy dog at HCRHS, has arrived and is awaiting installation.
- In addition, a bench memorial will be donated by Eugene Ngai in honor of his sister. There is already a shortage of these benches, and there is about a 3 month waiting period.

Taylor's Mill Property

- There are some concerns about people going to the property and discussion about putting up a gate to stop people from entering the property.
- If there's a sign and it's gated, then it's trespassing. but with no signs the township is liable.
- Fencing/gating at the front and back are recommended.
- Sheila and Rene will draft a letter requesting the township to assist with limiting access to the property for safety reasons.

ADJOURNMENT: Sheila moved that the meeting be adjourned. Rene seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah John
Secretary