

THE READINGTON MUSEUMS
MUSEUM COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
June 3, 2021

Chairman Sheila Paciullo 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 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 member of the public, Marlene Orlandi, was in attendance. A quorum of Committee members was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes from May 6th were reviewed. Nancy O'Malley 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: See grant update under *Bouman Stickney* section

PROPERTIES:

Bouman Stickney Farmstead:

- Grant review process update: Mario reported that our proposal did not come up at the most recent meeting. The May meeting focused on proposals that deal with land acquisition. The proposals dealing with historic work will likely not occur until September. Once we know what specifics the proposal requires (perhaps 0.5" shingles, for example), we can return to our contract proposers and obtain updated bids.
- Nancy has been helping Margaret start to pack up the office space and upstairs storage pieces, packing into boxes and sorting the good from the not-as-good.
- At the last Historic Preservation Committee meeting, Chuck Waters mentioned that he might come and take a look at the porch. Also, Mario is getting some professional bids for the porch work in the next week or so. We will have more input soon.
- Margaret got an estimate for replacing/repairing the front sign for \$360. Joyce made a motion to approve the cost of the repair, and Nancy seconded. Unanimously approved.
- The exterior repointing work is scheduled, and the exterminator is coming to attack the wasps before the holes are closed up. Margaret will be on site (attending a conference) during the work. Mario asked Margaret to request on our behalf that the mason makes an effort to match the current mortar color as best as possible.

Eversole-Hall:

- Nothing at this time

Cold Brook School:

- Nothing at this time

PROGRAMS/EVENTS: past

Minutes 2021 06 03

Still Nope-- but we're getting closer!

PROGRAMS/EVENTS: upcoming

Possible Upcoming Events—Looking ahead to the fall...

Artists Series-

Marlene Orlandi reported on the local artist series. She proposes that we postpone the sculptors and painters until next spring, 2022. Using the few weekends available in the Fall, perhaps a late weekend in September, the concept could be to explore the Stickney/Lindsay home and explore examples of their work. We could offer guided tours of the home, followed by the Readington Community theater performing a staged reading in the barn from the play “Life with Father” written in 1939 by Lindsay and Crouse. (Fun facts: The play was on Broadway and ran for 3224 performances, over 401 weeks. It was, and still is, the largest running non-musical play on Broadway.) They would prefer to perform twice, once on Saturday and once on Sunday.

The committee discussed that perhaps there could be another weekend with another tour, this time featuring the Hunterdon Harmonizers with songs from the 40s and 50s (ex, “Paper Moon”).

The committee discussed whether, with the pending construction, the two pieces (reading and tours) might be broken into two separate events. Or perhaps some of the artifacts could be displayed outside of the barn in one of the artifact cases. Because of the need to reserve the presenters, this part of the presentation might be a decision best made closer to the event itself.

Additional ideas included joining all of the ideas into one celebratory day, one of the last two weekends of September. Marlene will look into the availability of the presenters for one of those two weekends.

Native American Presentation-

Susan Plaisted has limited availability in September and October. She is available October 3rd, the first Sunday in October, so Margaret will confirm that she can still come then and book her presentation.

Enslows: *All Hallows' Eve: Songs of Love, Death, and the Supernatural-*

Perhaps looking into mid-October? Or perhaps schedule them for the following year.

Lucy Walsh with the Rug Hooking exhibits-

Still a possibility for an upcoming presentation

OTHER:

Taylor's Mill Property

- The committee discussed with Betty Ann the possible liability issues with this property.
- Margaret has exchanged emails with several Township people, and Sheila and Rene have requested additional information. The most recent email was requesting to put up some “No Trespassing” signs at the property, in order to give notice to anyone who might try to enter or climb up on the roof.

- Betty Ann expressed that the Township can't "lock the town up," and that putting wire across the doorway with a "No Trespassing" sign, might invite more trouble than it discourages (ie: ruffians might take it as a challenge).
- She will visit the property again, and follow up with the Township Attorney, etc.

ADJOURNMENT: Sheila moved that the meeting be adjourned. Rene seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah John
Secretary