

THE READINGTON MUSEUMS  
MUSEUM COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
June 1, 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, Sheila Paciullo, Sarah John, Nancy O'Malley, Joyce Lykes, Helen Farrant, and Museum Director Margaret Smith were in attendance. Mario Orlandi and Township Committee Liaison Vincent Panico were absent. A quorum of Committee members was present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes from May 4th, 2023 were reviewed. Nancy made a motion to approve, and Joyce seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**BUSINESS –**

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

**BUDGET:**

**PROPERTIES:**

*Bouman Stickney Farmstead:*

- **Orchard/Trees**
  - The committee received the proposal for tree care, discussed the proposal, and decided to skip this year and revisit for both pruning and spraying next year. The committee will revisit it in November.
  - Ron Christy is aware of and plans to remove the dying Oak tree by the Guest House. Sarah expressed concern about cutting down a tree that wasn't yet fully dead. The rest of the committee discussed pros and cons to taking down the tree, but the decision will ultimately be left to the township.
  - Regarding the mystery tree -Ron has set up a support system for the leaning branch.
- **House Roof**
  - The project is scheduled to begin the week of June 5 or after. The roofers are still waiting on materials
- **Emergency Exit**
  - Mario reviewed the early project details with Ron Christy and Vincent Panico. Plans to contact the property owner, a survey, and site visit are in the planning stage.

*Eversole-Hall:*

- Fence restoration is almost fully complete. It still needs some tweaking and to be stained. Margaret will ask Buildings and Grounds if they are able to do the staining.
- The breaker has been fine.

*Cold Brook School:*

- The committee discussed that the 4th grade program won't be continuing with Readington School District going forward, as well as options for what to do with that program in the future.

**PROGRAMS/EVENTS:** past

*Dorothy Stickney Art Series Program*

- **Meet Ned Hector- May 7:** The event had a great turnout with 35 people in attendance. The Museums collected \$104 in donations.
- **Barn Dance May 13:** A wonderful turnout and everyone seemed to have a great time. The Museums collected \$282 for entry and another \$41 for water.

**Past Partners in History- School Programs:**

May 15, 16, Rain 17, 19 TBS third grade at EHH/Town Hall

**PROGRAMS/EVENTS:**

**Upcoming Programming and Events:**

- **June 4** Butter Cheese Making
- **June 30** Organic Farming
- **August 4** Flag lecture - rescheduled from July 21
- **August 25** Witchcraft lecture
- **September 9** Eddie J and Danny A -Bluegrass (tentative)

**Partners in History- School Programs:**

- Dates:
  - **June 5, 7, Rain 12, 13** WHS third grade at EHH/Town Hall
  - **July 6 Winnewald Camp:** Two workshops from 10-11:15 am, candle making and tinsmithing. Total campers tbd.
- Volunteers needed to clean EHH and to help with those programs. Volunteers would need to plan for 8-12:30.

**Rain Barrel Program:** The WaterWatch committee along with Raritan Headwaters will be hosting a Rain Barrel Workshop on June 24th in the BSF Barn.

**OTHER:**

**Metal Detecting request:**

Mitch has proposed a 2-day hunt in July. Possibly 7/1-7/2 or 7/15-7/16. As it will be an outdoor event and in the warmer month, they don't necessarily need access to the house for this hunt. Margaret will let the police department know that they will be on site doing an authorized dig. Joyce motioned to approve the event, and Sheila seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Hunting on the Bouman Stickney Property:** Some members of the committee walked the property alongside some concerned citizens.. They discussed our requests involving a buffer zone, direction of fire, etc.

**Facebook:** The Museums Committee may continue posting and sharing with the Township page.

**Summer Spectacular:** June 20th- The Museums is not interested in having a table this year.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Sarah moved that the meeting be adjourned. Sheila seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah John  
Secretary