

THE READINGTON MUSEUMS  
MUSEUMS COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
December 7, 2023

Chairman Rene Rao called the meeting to order at 7:38 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, Sarah John, Nancy O'Malley, Mario Orlandi, and Museum Director Margaret Smith were in attendance. Members Joyce Lykes, Helen Farrant, Sheila Paciullo, and Township Committee Liaison Vincent Panico were absent. A quorum of Committee members was present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes from November 2nd, 2023 were reviewed. Nancy made a motion to approve as amended, and Mario seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**BUSINESS –**

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

**BUDGET:**

- Amount left in the trust: ~\$52,000.00+
- BSF needed a new water heater. Buildings and Grounds offered to split the cost
- BSF needs a new printer
- Margaret reported that the Museums needs a new laptop in the near future as well
- Any funds left over from 2023 will be paid towards either a final oil bill, money towards the water heater, or a new printer.
- Rene made a motion that, assuming that the Historic Preservation Grant through the Open Space Trust Fund is approved for the funding of the Bouman Stickney porch, in the event that it's not enough to cover the full repairs, the Museums will use up to \$52,000 to complete the project. In the event that there is an alternate source of funding for the porch, those funds will be designated for repairs at Eversole-Hall House and the Cold Brook School. Mario seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**PROPERTIES:**

*Bouman Stickney Farmstead:*

- **Emergency Exit:** No information
- **Accessibility Ramp:** Margaret continues to wait on responses from Tom Petto and Ron Christy about the ramp options.

*Eversole-Hall:*

- Nothing at this time

*Cold Brook School:*

- Nothing at this time

*Taylor's Mill:*

- The opening event for The Friends of Colonel John Taylor's Grist Mill was held on November 19th at 10:30am. Over 40 volunteers participated! Preservation New Jersey helped to organize and host the event.

**PROGRAMS/EVENTS:** past

- **November 5th Open House:** House tours with a cross stitch demonstration. There was an excellent turnout of 60 visitors (50 adults and 10 kids, 3 board, 2 volunteer). \$48 in donations
- **December 3rd Christmas Program:** 80 visitors, 5 board members, 3 volunteers. \$160 in donations

**PROGRAMS/EVENTS:**

**Upcoming Programming and Events:**

- **May 5, 2024 Enslows** Washington and His Spies show

**June Program Idea– open house at EHH:** Based upon the popularity of the November Open House at BSF, the Committee discussed holding more non-program specific open houses at the various properties. It has been long enough since the last time the properties were regularly open to the public that there are new township residents who have never been able to explore them.

**OTHER:**

**Board Resignation and Possible Replacement:** Helen Farrant is stepping down from her position on the committee. She will be missed, and the Committee thanks her for her years of loyal service. A frequent volunteer has submitted her application for the position, so the committee will put forward our recommendation for her placement.

**Exhibit Case**

- There is no update on the returning of the exhibit case back to Museums displays.

**Long Range Plan:** to be continued in 2024

**ADJOURNMENT:** Sarah moved that the meeting be adjourned. Nancy seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah John  
Secretary