

THE READINGTON MUSEUMS
MUSEUMS COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
November 7, 2024

Chairman Rene Rao 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 Rene Rao, Sheila Paciullo, Joyce Lykes, Nancy O'Malley and Mario Orlandi were in attendance. Members Christina Spring and Sarah John were absent. A quorum of Committee members was present. Assistant Museums Director Margaret Smith and new Museums Director Emily Jerzewski were present. Township Committee Liaison Vincent Panico was absent. One member of the public was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes from October 3, 2024 were reviewed. Mario made a motion to approve as presented, and Joyce seconded. Joyce, Mario, Rene, Sheila voted in favor. Nancy did not vote, as she was absent from that meeting.

BUSINESS – The Committee welcomed Emily Jerzewski as the new Museums Director. Emily is training with Margaret Smith, Assistant Museums Director.

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

BUDGET:

- The Committee was informed that the Museums General Trust Account has a balance of \$55,643. No information was available regarding funding from the bond.
- The Committee discussed items needed using remaining 2024 budget funds. A motion was made to encumber up to \$3,000 for needed repairs and maintenance on the barn at BSF and work at EHH. Nancy made the motion, Sheila seconded. All members voted in favor. If funds are available, a computer is needed for the Assistant Museum Director. (Funds were encumbered last month for one computer for the new Director.) Other items needed are: street address signs for BSF, program signs, sign holders, letters, costumes for new Director, lantern candles.
- The Committee discussed recent suggestions about applying for more grant funding. Since the Museums are owned by the Township of Readington, it does not qualify for certain grants. Also, Mario suggested that grant information and procedures be printed for review. Margaret has written it up already to show all that goes into requesting a grant.
- Rene spoke about a topic which was presented by a member of the public at a Township Committee meeting. The concept is for the Township to charge a very small amount of tax to establish a fund for general building repairs, including Museums properties, to maintain and sustain these historic sites. Rene encouraged the Museums Committee to attend the Township Committee meetings to strongly request the funds desperately needed for building repairs.

PROPERTIES:

Bouman Stickney Farmstead:

- Margaret and Emily will be meeting with Pat Fisher Olson, Chair of the Historic Preservation Committee, to look at the carpenter bee damage on the walls of the barn.
- The committee spoke about the status of the porch work, but no update was available.

Eversole-Hall:

- A painting contractor will be contacted to get an estimate.

Cold Brook School:

- No update on the leaking roof with a torn tarp on it.

Taylor’s Mill:

- Nothing at this time.

PROGRAMS/EVENTS: Past Programs

- Sunday, October 6- Open House **Cancelled**
- Saturday, October 12- Barn Dance – 54 guests, 5 Museums representatives
- Sunday, November 3- Open House- 11 visitors

PROGRAMS/EVENTS: Upcoming Programs

- Homeschool Program- November 13- Meet Vrouw Bowman
- Sunday, December 8- Dutch Christmas Volunteers are needed at the event. Decorating will be done Dec. 5-7, timing to be determined based on volunteers. Cookie bakers also needed.

2024 Program Schedule

Date	Program	Presenter
09/08/24	Beer Brewing	Michael Carver
10/06/24	OH **Cancelled**	
10/12/24	Barn Dance	Betsy Gotta
11/03/24	OH	
12/08/24	Dutch Christmas	Enslows

Discuss The Dorothy Stickney Art Series Program: nothing at this time

OTHER: Museums Director-in training, Emily Jerzewski, requested a cell phone for Museums business. The Committee preferred to keep the landline and established telephone number.

ADJOURNMENT: Nancy moved that the meeting be adjourned. Sheila seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila Paciullo, Vice Chair RMC