

THE READINGTON MUSEUMS
MUSEUMS COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
March 6, 2025

Chairman Rene Rao called the meeting to order at 7:31 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, Sarah John, Nancy O'Malley, Christina Spring, Mario Orlandi, and Assistant Museum Director Margaret Smith and Museum Director in Training Emily Jerzewski were in attendance. Three members of the public were present. Township Committee Liaison Vincent Panico was absent. A quorum of Committee members was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes from February 6, 2025 were reviewed. Nancy made a motion to approve as amended, and Sheila seconded. Joyce, Rene, Christina, Sheila, and Nancy voted in favor. Mario did not vote, as he was absent from the meeting.

BUSINESS –
Other: (see below)

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

BUDGET:

- CHPP Grant – approved for \$9,000 this year, which is what the Museums had requested. The committee reviewed and discussed the comments from the Grant review committee.

PROPERTIES:

Bouman Stickney Farmstead:

- Porch- the township needs to put the job out for new bids.

Eversole-Hall:

- Heating system issue:
 - Margaret looked into pricing for a baseboard heating system with an estimate from Scott's Electric. Electric baseboard heat may be safer to use and safer to leave on during the winter.
 - Mario also suggested looking into a smaller, wall unit style alternative by "Cadet." He will give the information to Margaret to look into.
- Margaret will also get estimates for painting the outdoors of the building

Cold Brook School:

- Waiting for the weather to improve
- We have also been recommended to look into getting gutter guards

Taylor's Mill:

- Nothing at this time

PROGRAMS/EVENTS: Past Programs

March 2, Chocolate Making with Susan McLellan Plaisted

- About 37-45 visitors (at least 11 kids and 26 adults), 2 volunteers, 2 staff
- A very full house of active and engaged visitors

Upcoming Programming and Events:

March and April- First grade programs

May 22, 12:00-1:30 Viking Visionaries Day, 8th grade with Will Daly

 Ideas at Bouman Stickney: cleaning in barn, cleaning in the house, likely 10 students maximum

April 6th- 18th Century Fashion with Bev and Arlene

Looking ahead to the 250th:

- June 7, 2026– Rug Hookers program in the barn with coordinating for the 250th

OTHER:

“Rainbow Bridge” memorial:

- Lynn Henderson, founder of the non-profit NJ Animeals and Lisa Hall, president of the non-profit Readington Trail Association presented an idea for creating a community memorial for people's pets on the Bouman Stickney property.
- Lynn described a “rainbow bridge” that she visited at a different park that was a memorial to people’s pets who have passed on. She is proposing converting the bridge at the Bouman Stickney property into a similar memorial by painting the bridge with some muted rainbow colors, posting a custom aluminium sign with the “Rainbow Bridge” poem, and adding cup hooks where owners could hang pet ID tags in memorial of their pets.
- Margaret asked if they had a mark up of what the painting would look like. Lynn and Lisa said they could provide that, but the idea would be a subtle painting on the surface of the bridge with the fading out of pet footprints.
- The committee mentioned concerns about the weathering and flooding causing the paint to weather. Lynn suggested that they might need a coat of polyurethane to keep the painting in place, and also that the polyurethane would possibly need to be reapplied over the years.
- Lisa mentioned that a posting to the newspaper or the township website might work to get the word out about what would and would not be acceptable for owners to leave at the site.
- Lisa also mentioned that she would be willing to do anything needed to maintain the memorial, including putting out only about 100 of the hooks at first, and then add to them as needed.

The committee discussed the proposed memorial, and agreed to discuss it further at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Nancy moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mario seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah John
Secretary