

THE READINGTON MUSEUMS
MUSEUM COMMITTEE
MEETING
February 21, 2009

Chairman Jim Horvath called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m. He announced that all laws governing the Open Public Meetings Act had been met and that the meeting had been duly advertised.

PRESENT: Jim Horvath, Erin Brennan, Betty Ann Fort, Joyce Lykes, Nancy O'Malley and Township Committeeman Frank Gatti.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Betty Ann Fort moved to approve the minutes from the meeting held on February 2, 2009. Joyce Lykes seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed with Nancy O'Malley abstaining.

GRAFFITTI AT BOUMAN STICKNEY FARMSTEAD ("BSF"): A neighbor alerted the Museum Administrator to graffiti on the picnic tables and trees near the spring on the Open Space trails. The neighbor also found condoms and other paraphernalia. The Administrator called the police about the incident. The Committee and Frank Gatti discussed the matter as well as possible ways to (i) remediate the damage; and (ii) prevent subsequent events from occurring.

GUEST HOUSE PLANS: The Committee then discussed with Frank the revised plans for the BSF Guest House submitted by Architect Chris Pickell. Frank asked how much money was left on the two capital bonds. Nancy O'Malley believed that approximately \$100,000 was left, but she will confirm the amount with Tom Carro.

Jim Horvath noted that the project was divided into three phases: Phase I – the work already done; Phase II – the renovation to be done to the first floor; and Phase III – the renovation to the second floor. Jim further noted that Phase II was not part of the bid package; however Betty Ann Fort raised the issue of where Phase II ended and Phase III began. For example, how much insulation and electrical work would have to be done on the second floor (Phase III) in order for the HVAC system on the main floor to operate efficiently?

Frank questioned the adequacy of the electrical supply. He noted that if the Guest House is heated by means of an electric heat pump, much more than 60 amps would be required.

Jim then asked Frank if the main floor could be used as an office until Phase III is completed. This would delay the Township's use of the Guest House as a meeting room. Frank agreed with this proposal.

Finally, the issue of a septic system to service the Guest House was raised. To date, no inspection had been done. Jim will talk with Scott Jesseman about it.

Frank stressed the necessity of meeting with Chris Pickell to discuss: (i) the HVAC system; (ii) the bid process; (iii) the electrical system; and (iv) any other issues that may arise. Jim, Betty Ann and the Museum Administrator will meet with him. Frank also agreed to raise the Guest House renovations with the Township Committee. He will also make the committee understand that more money may have to be allocated for the renovations.

TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER MEETING: Jim then advised the Committee of a volunteer recruitment meeting to be held at the Municipal Building on February 24th at 6:30 p.m. Jim, Betty Ann, Nancy, and Erin Brennan will attend.

FIRST GRADE PROGRAM: Betty Ann noted that the First Grade Program was going well and that the children were enamored of the high chair.

ALHFAM: The Committee agreed that the Museum Administrator should attend the upcoming ALHFAM conferences, as they provide an excellent networking opportunity. Jim noted that the Administrator had offered to drive to the national conference at her own expense. Betty Ann moved that the Committee should send to the ALHFAM national conference to be held at Old Salem, North Carolina from June 6 – 9, 2009, and to allocate up to \$850 for the conference. Erin seconded the motion and it was unanimously

RESOLVED, that the Museum Administrator be permitted to attend the ALHFAM national conference to be held at Old Salem, North Carolina June 6 – 9, 2009 (the "Conference"); and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, that an amount not exceeding eight hundred fifty dollars (\$850.00) be allocated for the Museum Administrator's attendance at the Conference.

OVEN DONATION: Jim asked the Committee to approve the donation of a reflector oven. The oven was donated by B. Jenson. Erin presented some information on reflector ovens to the Committee. The information explained that reflector ovens or "Dutch ovens" may have been the first bread ovens to be used and that they functioned by the oven being placed in the fireplace, facing the back with coals being placed all around it. The oven contains a trap door so that the cook can check on the baking. Joyce Lykes moved that the donation of the oven be accepted and Nancy seconded the motion and it was unanimously

RESOLVED, that the donation of a reflector oven be, and it hereby is, accepted; and it was

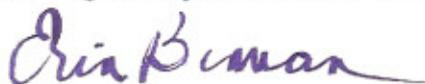
FURTHER RESOLVED, that B. Jenson be thanked for the donation and that a deed of gift be prepared.

QUINCE TREE: The Committee discussed the purchase of a quince tree for BSF. Jim noted that they normally do not bear fruit until they are eight or ten years old, but that Kim Costa knew of a source that sold mature trees. The Committee agreed that quinces would be a good fruit for BSF as they were used during the 18th century, were grown in the area and are self-pollinating. Jim will contact Kim and have pricing by the next meeting.

KITCHEN FLOOR: Betty Ann suggested that the kitchen floor at BSF be painted with brown paint prior to doing a floor cloth. She also suggested that the stairs be painted. Jim will get the paint.

FARMERS' MARKET AT EVERSOLE HALL HOUSE ("EHH"): Joyce asked about the status of holding a farmers' market at EHH. Betty Ann will ask Mayor Julia Allen about it.

ADJOURNMENT: Betty Ann moved that the meeting be adjourned. Nancy seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.



Respectfully submitted
Erin Brennan, Secretary of the Museum Committee