

THE READINGTON MUSEUMS
MUSEUM COMMITTEE
MEETING
April 6, 2009

Chairman Jim Horvath called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.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, Nancy O'Malley and Museum Administrator Amy Hollander.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Betty Ann Fort moved to approve the minutes from the meeting held on February 21, 2009, as amended. Nancy O'Malley seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.

MUSEUM ADMINISTRATOR'S HOURS: The Committee discussed the Museum Administrator's concerns about adequately attending to all of her duties in her shortened hours. She is able to attend only to the high priority items such as programs currently in session. Preparation time is necessarily curtailed. The Committee will continue the discussion at the next meeting.

FIRST GRADE PROGRAM: There was a shortage of volunteers for the First Grade Program; however members of the Museum Committee were able to fill the gap at short notice. Both the Administrator and Betty Ann noticed that the children were less prepared than in the past. When the program is held again, pre- and post-program activities will be introduced and the teachers will be presented with a list of things the children will be expected to know prior to the program.

THIRD GRADE PROGRAM:

Teachers' Package: The Administrator presented the teachers' package for the Third Grade Program. She noted that the teachers were well pleased with the packages. They suggested, however, that time should be allowed for a snack. Betty Ann suggested cider and graham crackers outside while the survey is speaking with the students.

Items Still Needed: The Administrator noted that the tent, compass as well as a small trestle table are still needed.

Township Committee Involvement: She also pointed out that as of the date of this evening's Museum Committee meeting, the Township Committee members were not completely committed to helping with the program. Betty Ann will speak to them.

Dress Rehearsal: The Administrator and the Committee agreed that a "dress rehearsal" was necessary. It will be held later in April. The Administrator will also meet with Betty Ann and Jim to discuss needs still outstanding.

Volunteers: The Administrator advised the Committee that each class will be bringing three adult volunteers, one of which will require training. A Museum volunteer would also be needed to describe the history of the town meeting.

FIFTH GRADE PROGRAM: The Administrator suggested engaging Kim Costa for as many trades/crafts as possible. She also mentioned replacing tinwork with militia drilling. The Committee expressed concern that the schools may have problems with the children training with replica (fake) guns. The Administrator will speak with the schools.

CAMP: The Administrator noted that last year's fee was \$100 per week and suggested offsetting her reduced hours with a higher fee. Betty Ann noted that this was not the year to raise fees.

WEDDING RENTALS: The Committee agreed to revisit this issue in the fall.

NEW JERSEY ALHFAM: The Administrator noted that the conference was well done and included a lot of hands on activities (cheese making, heirloom seed museum). More importantly, however, was the conference's seminar on attracting volunteers. She noted that the Baby Boomers that are now entering retirement require a different approach to commit to volunteering. People from earlier generations volunteered out of a sense of civic duty, but Baby Boomers are "lifelong learners". The Committee talked about placing advertisements in the classified section of the newspapers and suggested reaching out to the Four Seasons Active Adult Community on Mountain Road.

GUEST HOUSE: Jim reported that an inspection revealed that the septic tank at the Guest House had collapsed. A letter to the County Board of Health has been drafted to inquire whether the tank could be replaced without adding a new above-ground leach field. The Committee discussed alternatives, including another capital bond, to fund the tank if a leach field was not needed. Jim will speak with Mayor Julia Allen. Jim also noted that he had not yet spoken to K-Electric and that Chris Pickell is still looking for an HVAC contractor.

QUINCE TREE: Jim mentioned that the quince tree had been planted but both he and Nancy were concerned about the depth of the hole. He also noted that unless it rained, the tree would have to be watered every day. The Committee agreed that a new hose, long enough to reach to the tree, as well as a timer, should be purchased

EVERSOLE HALL HOUSE ("EHH"): It was noted that no money would be saved by having the Township dispose of the roofing waste. A check for Jeff Alte has been prepared. Betty Ann asked the Administrator to submit a work order for an additional trash can. She also suggested a wooden plaque be made for the Girl Scout Troop attending to the garden. The Administrator will look into it.

501(C) (3) CORPORATION: It was noted that there is a new provision in the Federal Tax Code that enables governments to establish 501(c) (3) corporations (non-profit; tax-exempt). Such corporations would have more opportunities to apply for grant money and donors would receive tax credit.

COOK COLLEGE: Erin Brennan noted that a visitor to the Museum had suggested that the arborist program at Cook College be contacted to "adopt" the orchard. The Administrator will look into it.

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



Respectfully submitted
Erin Brennan, Secretary of the Museum Committee