

THE READINGTON MUSEUMS
MUSEUM COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
September 8, 2009

Chairman Jim Horvath called the meeting to order at 7:50 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, Betty Ann Fort, Joyce Lykes, Nancy O'Malley, and Erin Brennan.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Joyce Lykes moved to approve the minutes from the meeting held on August 3, 2009, as amended. Nancy O'Malley seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed with Betty Ann Fort abstaining.

LECTURE SERIES: The Committee noted that eleven people attended the August lecture on Bloomery Forges and that the September lecture was cancelled due to the unavailability of the presenter.

FOODWAYS EVENT: Betty Ann will help the Administrator clean the Bouman Stickney Farmstead ("BSF") for the Dutch Colonial Foodways event on September 19.

SUNDAY OPEN HOUSE: The Administrator is requested to put up the signs for the September 13 open house.

EXHIBIT: The administrator would like to set up this year's exhibit, *Made in Hunterdon*, on September 30. The reception will be held on October 2nd in the barn.

ACCESSIONING SOFTWARE: Doug Milne is still working on getting our data to Pastperfect.

GUEST HOUSE:

Septic Tank: The Committee noted that the septic tank had been dropped off next to the driveway and assumed that the bridge over the stream would not support the delivery truck. Jim Horvath will speak with Scott Jesseman about (a) how the septic tank will be installed; and (b) if the lead field will support the tank.

Bid Package: Betty Ann will speak with the Township Administrator about the status of the bid package and the selection process for the HVAC engineer.

BSF:

Garden: Erin Brennan asked if the Museum Administrator would be able to find a Girl Scout troop to maintain the BSF garden next year as the troop handling the garden at the Eversole Hall House ("EHH") was doing such a good job. The Committee will clean up the garden and remove the dead plants later in the fall.

Painting: Jim noted that the paint in the exterior trim was beginning to damage the integrity of the house. He will ask Jack Ferrant of Hunterdon Paint to recommend a painter who would do the painting in an historically correct manner.

Windows: Jim will finish repairing the plaster on the kitchen window. In addition, he will speak with Chuck Waters about repairing the squirrel damage after the Exhibit.

EHH

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Committee will be held on September 19, 2009 at EHH. The Committee will weed the flower beds in front of the house.

Garden: Betty Ann moved that since the Girl Scout troop that took care of the garden did an excellent job, each girl should be recognized by the Museum Committee with a certificate and an invitation to the Exhibit reception on October 2nd. Nancy seconded the motion and the following resolution was unanimously passed:

WHEREAS, through the faithful and diligent efforts of Girl Scout Troop Number 1527 of Whitehouse Station during 2009, the Museums' garden at the Eversole Hall House has been fruitful and has proven to be an excellent example of an early 19th century garden; and

WHEREAS, the Museum Committee desires to recognize each member of the Girl Scout Troop with a certificate expressing the Museums' appreciation for her hard work.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Museum Committee hereby recognizes the contribution of each member of Girl Scout Troop Number 1527 of Whitehouse Station (the "Girl Scout Troop") for her work in the Eversole Hall House garden during 2009; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certificate expressing the Museums' appreciation shall be delivered to each member of the Girl Scout Troop.

Erin volunteered to make the certificates and will ask the Administrator for the names of the members of the Girl Scout Troop.

COMMITTEE MEMBER PROPOSAL: Jim advised the Committee that Helen Ferrant, a potter who has given demonstrations at several BSF Open Houses and has volunteered at several Museum school programs expressed an interest in joining the Museum Committee. Mrs. Ferrant is a resident of Tewksbury; however her husband is the proprietor of Hunterdon Paints in Whitehouse Station. The Committee agreed that Mrs. Ferrant would be a valuable member of the Committee. Jim will review the Township ordinance setting forth the requirements of Museum Committee members. In the event the ordinance stipulates that members of the Museum Committee be residents of the Township, Betty Ann moved that a recommendation be submitted to the Township Committee to amend the ordinance to permit two (2) out of the seven (7) members of the Museum Committee. Joyce seconded the motion and it was unanimously

RESOLVED, that a recommendation be submitted to the Readington Township Committee to amend the Township ordinance governing the Museum Committee to permit two (2) out of the seven (7) members of the Museum Committee to be non-residents of Readington Township.

Erin then moved that a recommendation be submitted to the Township Committee to appoint Helen Ferrant to the Museum Committee. Betty Ann seconded the motion and it was unanimously

RESOLVED, that a recommendation be submitted to the Readington Township Committee to appoint Helen Ferrant as a member of the Museum Committee.

NEW JERSEY HISTORIC COMMISSION 2010 GRANT: The Committee discussed the requirement of the 2010 grant to provide a detailed report on the Museums' compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") and the New Jersey Historic Commission's (the "Commission") related questionnaire. The report will require information on not only the Museums' facilities, but its ADA-related policies as well, including a mechanism for disabled persons to submit grievances to the Museums. Jim reported that the Administrator suggested hiring someone to review the Museums' ADA policies and prepare the report. Nancy questioned whether the Museums would have the funds to hire someone to prepare the report. Betty Ann asked if the Township is required to have such policies. If so, since the Museums are governed by the Township, it should be governed by the Township's ADA policies. Betty Ann will ask the Township Administrator. The Administrator will be asked to provide a copy of the documentation from the Commission to Jim and Nancy. Nancy will procure a current financial report from the Township Controller.

ADJOURNMENT: Betty Ann moved that the meeting be adjourned. Joyce seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.



Respectfully submitted
Erin Brennan, Secretary